

Silicon Times Report

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(Since 1987)

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R.F. Mariano, Editor
STR Publishing, Inc.
Voice: 1-904-292-9222 10am-5pm EST
FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs
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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

Florida Lotto - LottoMan v1.35

Results: 1/11/96: 2 of 6 numbers, no matches

From the Editor's Desk...

The fools are at it again! A women's medical center in Atlanta that happens to also do abortions is diabolically bombed. This is the first time the bombing plan included a second bomb timed to go off after the first in an obvious attempt to cause considerable injury to emergency workers and curios onlookers. This is an outrage. This the "informed age" of mankind. Yet we see these acts of religious anti-abortion zealots carrying on as if it were the age of Inquisition. In light of this latest fanatical anti-abortion viciousness, I strongly urge each and every one of you to write to your political local, state and federal representatives urging that a law be written removing all tax-free benefits and status to any non-profit organization found to be associated in any way to any organization or group found to be part of these irresponsible, fanatical religious acts against mankind. There is no doubt in my mind that the best way to stop these zealots is to hobble their cash flow. What happened in Atlanta must be regarded as "The Last Straw". Law Enforcement of all levels must be brought to bear upon these murderous zealots. They must be brought out, into the light of day, for all to see right along with those who are financing these heinous acts of wanton violence.

Lloyd E. Pulley, lepulley@streport.co . Our Shareware Editor (among many other things) underwent Open Heart Surgery this past week. Please join me in asking the Good Lord to watch over him and bring him through this safely. I'll keep everyone posted about Lloyd. He's a tough old bird anyway. Can you tell I've known him for a whole lotta years? He'll be back, raising sand, as soon as possible.

Office 97 is shipping and what do you know? Certain of my "colleagues" are busy dubbing the package all sorts of less than humorous names. This effort on their part can only be seen as a clumsy effort on their parts to gain some level of yet unattained notoriety through controversy. Its sad to see a power application software package being panned for selfish reasons such as this. We have a number of informative articles in this week's issue highlighting some of the fine benefits Office 97 offers take a look at them and also the Microsoft Office 97 Web Site. Don't let spin doctors of the lesser variety make up your minds for you.

This package is, simply put, awesome.

Adobe's PageMaker 6.5 ships this week too.. This is the very best in DTP productivity software one can possibly ask for. Check out our info on PM 6.5. This puppy won ALL the honors. When coupled with Adobe's PhotoShop 4.0, 'tis indeed the Utopian DTP Situation.

Of Special Note:

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STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although it is in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailling list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01, 1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list.

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Apple Eyes Cheaper PCs in '97

The sale of lots of better-performing, cheaper personal computers and the unveiling of a new global advertising campaign are among Apple Computer Inc.'s goals for this year, according to Apple chief operating officer Marco Landi. Speaking at a press conference at this week's Macworld trade show in San Francisco, Landi adds that as part of Apple's three-year plan to turn its fortunes around, the company also will continue to simplify its product lines this year and will introduce powerful laptops and multimedia computers to compete against a new generation of PCs. The Reuter News Service quotes Landi as saying, "The mission that we have set up for ourselves is to make sure that we are the leader in providing simple to use, powerful, very high-performance products."

Reuters reporter Kourosh Karimkhany says products to be introduced include:

- '• A \$999 Macintosh to rival PCs based on Intel Corp. Pentium microprocessors with the same price.
- '• A high-end Macintosh based on a 533-megahertz PowerPC microprocessor, a computer chip that the company claims to be one of the fastest available.
- '• Better-performing PowerBook laptops, traditionally one of Apple's most profitable products.

Also, Landi acknowledged Apple has made mistakes in selling to consumers, which account for about 40 percent of its revenue in the Christmas quarter, but said the company still is in good shape to carry out its product plans in 1997, adding the \$1.7 billion in cash that Apple has on hand is a "strong, solid base for us to make the investments to execute our strategy." He said Apple will use some of that cash to launch in January a global advertising campaign to bolster its image, a campaign based on the slogan "Give your dreams a chance."

Microsoft Ships Office 97

Microsoft Corp. has launched the latest version of its hugely profitable Office suite of applications. "While early reviews of Office 97 have been positive," notes reporter Martin Wolk of the Reuter News Service, "industry analysts said corporate users in particular will take a hard look before deciding whether the dozens of new features are worth an upgrade investment of \$200 per seat or more."

Wolk says Microsoft Bill Gates predicts Office 97 will be the biggest upgrade ever in percentage terms for the market-dominating product, which has an installed base approaching 50 million users including component applications such as Word and Excel. "By most estimates," Wolk adds, "Microsoft dominates the market for desktop productivity suites, capturing more than 90 percent of revenues." Analyst Scott McAdams of Ragen MacKenzie

projects Office will account for nearly \$3 billion of a total \$10.2 billion in revenues for Microsoft this year.

McAdams says the new Office is filled with Internet hooks designed to drive broader acceptance of Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser, "so it's an important product strategically." Still, adds Wolk, Microsoft faces increasingly aggressive competition from Canada's Corel Corp. and IBM's Lotus unit.

Toshiba Unveils Digital Camera

Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. is entering the digital photography market with the PDR-2A, a color still camera. Priced at \$499, the PDR-2A is targeted toward the rapidly growing market of computer users who use a notebook computer as their main information processing tool. The device comes with a built-in PC Card for transferring images to a notebook computer, a 2MB removable flash memory card and PC and Macintosh imaging software. The camera is set to ship in April.

Adobe, Fujitsu Bundles Products

Adobe Systems Inc. and Fujitsu Computer Products of America say they have signed an agreement that will provide an off-the-shelf solution to easily convert paper-based and electronic information into high-quality, searchable electronic documents ready for distribution via corporate Intranets, the World Wide Web or CD-ROM.

Under the agreement, Fujitsu will bundle Adobe Acrobat 3.0 software with the Fujitsu ScanPartner 600C, a high-resolution color desktop scanner introduced today by Fujitsu. The bundling agreement is designed to provide customers with a Web-ready document-imaging solution that can support a broad range of user needs including support for high-quality color content and multi-page documents.

The companies note that with Acrobat 3.0 and the Fujitsu ScanPartner 600C, customers can make practically any document ready for distribution on the Internet through a process as simple and familiar as printing or scanning. Both paper documents and those created with standard desktop authoring tools, such as word processors, presentation packages and page layout tools, can be turned into Portable Document Format (PDF) files with Acrobat 3.0 and posted immediately onto the Web. As a result, customers can quickly distribute information through external Web sites or corporate Intranets without learning new tools or spending additional time and resources reauthoring documents into other formats.

The ScanPartner 600C provides true 600 dpi resolution, single-pass 24-bit color and grayscale and bitonal scanning supported through scanner's bed and built-in 50-page automatic document feeder. The Fujitsu ScanPartner 600C is expected to become available later this month for \$1,995, including a SCSI adapter, cables, Adobe Acrobat 3.0 and the ScanRight Image Kit, an enhancement package that includes support software and an image-capture utility.

Corel, Netscape Team on Software

A new suite of integrated productivity applications will be marketed because of a new agreement between Canada's Corel Corp. and Netscape Communications Corp. Reporting from Ottawa, the Dow Jones news service quotes Corel as saying it has licensed Netscape Communicator, Netscape's new integrated suite of client software for open email, groupware and Web

browsing, and will integrate it with Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 and Corel Office Professional 8.

Corel and Netscape will jointly develop the new products, which Corel plans to ship later this year, and both companies will work together to market and promote them, Corel says, adding development efforts will center on combining the open-standards-based features of Netscape Communicator, such as email and groupware, with the desktop functionality of Corel's products. Also, Netscape has licensed Corel's WordPerfect Suite for internal use, the company says.

Microsoft to Make PC/TV Software

Software to create entertainment and information services for a new generation of appliances that merge TV and PCs is in the planning at Microsoft Corp. Writing in The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporter David Bank says Microsoft "is seeking to extend the reach of its Windows operating system and define the standards for the new services, which would combine TV-style video with interactive features now found on the Internet."

As part of the plan, the software giant this week unveiled a set of technologies at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Microsoft Vice President Jim Allchin told the paper, "Both the PC and consumer-electronics industries are predicting the evolution of home computers into home entertainment appliances," adding his employer hopes to provide a "common open platform" for the new services.

The Journal notes CES is seeing a host of companies -- including Microsoft rival Oracle Corp., and start-ups such as WebTV Networks Inc. -- exhibiting TVs and set-top boxes do the Internet's World Wide Web. "In Microsoft's long-range vision," says Bank, "all television programming and Internet services will be digitized and delivered via PC/TV devices. Microsoft's initiative is designed to help entertainment, consumer-electronics and computer companies create programming, services and features for the hybrid devices." Endorsing the initiative are IBM, Compaq Computer Corp., Hitachi Ltd., General Electric Co.'s NBC unit, Sony Electronics Corp. and Spelling Entertainment.

CE Chip Market Set to Rebound

While the consumer electronics semiconductor makers struggled in 1996, the market will rebound in 1997 with the emergence of both next-generation and digitally enhanced consumer electronics, according to Dataquest. The consumer electronics semiconductor market declined \$1.9 billion in 1996, but the market will grow to \$27 billion in 1997, reports the San Jose, California, market researcher.

"Because of the establishment of industry standards for most of these products, analog, digital and mixed-signal ASSP products are expected to find extremely high growth opportunities," says Dale Ford, senior industry analyst for Dataquest's semiconductor applications markets program. "More than half of the value created for semiconductors in the next-generation consumer electronics market comes from chips directly involved in processing audio, video and graphics."

Next-generation consumer electronics and digitally enhanced consumer electronics will drive the total chip market over \$45 billion by the year 2000, finds Dataquest. Legacy consumer electronics (products such as standard color TVs, portable stereos and VCRs) will find markets at the mid

to low-end segments, but the chip shipments in these products will remain relatively flat. Next-generation consumer electronics products include digital set-top boxes, digital satellite set-top boxes, 32/64-bit video game consoles, DVD players, DVD audio players, digital cameras, video CD players, HDTV-SDTV-ATV receivers, digital camcorders (DVC) and other products employing advanced semiconductor technologies.

"The poor showing for consumer electronics sales during 1996 has created a sense of urgency among consumer electronics companies working to employ new technologies to revitalize a slumping industry," says Ford. "At the recent Winter Consumer Electronics Show, leading industry executives revealed that their future plans rely on recapturing consumer interest in their core products by adding digital enhancements to legacy products and by pushing the development of a new category of advanced consumer electronics." More information about Dataquest's programs, descriptions of recent research reports, and full text of press releases can be found on the World Wide Web at www.dataquest.com.

New HTML Standard Approved

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has endorsed the use of HTML 3.2, an updated version of the Hypertext Markup Language, on Web sites. A statement issued by the Cambridge, Massachusetts, Web standards group says HTML 3.2 is "stable" and "contributes toward the W3C mission of 'Realizing the Full Potential of the Web'."

HTML 3.2 was developed throughout 1996 by W3C and industry leaders including IBM, Microsoft, Netscape Communications, Novell, SoftQuad, Spyglass and Sun Microsystems. W3C notes that HTML 3.2 offers a number of new features, including tables, applets, text flow around images, superscripts and subscripts, while providing backward compatibility with the existing HTML 2.0 standard.

"For data or applications intended to work across platforms, or having a lifetime of more than a few months, conformance to HTML 3.2 gives the best guarantee of interoperability," says Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web and director of the W3C. "If you're looking for a railroad through the marshes of ranging HTML implementations, HTML 3.2 is it."

W3C is continuing to work on extensions to HTML for multimedia objects, scripting, style sheets, layout, forms, higher quality printing and math. W3C plans on incorporating this work into further versions of HTML. "We are working closely with Member organizations and recognized experts in the development, testing and refinement of HTML," adds Dave Raggett, visiting scientist at W3C and the lead architect of W3C's HTML activity. "By providing a neutral forum, W3C is playing a key role in bringing players together to work for the lasting interoperability of the Web."

FCC Considers Wireless Net Links

A plan that could offer schools, hospitals and businesses a potentially cheaper, wireless way to connect to the Internet is set for approval by the Federal Communications Commission. The idea, says Associated Press writer Jeannine Aversa, is "to set aside a large chunk of radio frequencies for free and unlicensed high-speed communication over short distances." Aversa adds, "It would then be up to companies to develop devices to use these frequencies to enable wireless links over a range of about one to three miles. Since the frequencies would be unlicensed, users would not have to pay a company for service, as users of cellular phones do. Instead, these frequencies would be treated like those used to open garage doors

remotely."

FCC officials say schools could use the wireless links to connect classroom computers to each other. "In this way," notes Aversa, "only one of the computers would need to be hooked into the Internet via high-speed telephone line, rather than having a phone line hooked to each computer." Also, businesses could use the wireless links to tap into a private, "intranet" version of the World Wide Web. Other possible uses for the wireless links would be to exchange e-mail, faxes and computer files among nearby buildings on a small college campus. "And they could be used by hospitals to link computers in different rooms or nearby buildings to exchange patient data, X-rays and medical charts," says AP.

Urging FCC approval of the plan are Apple Computer Inc. and a group called WinForum, which is composed of Lucent Technologies Inc., Motorola Inc. and Northern Telecom Inc. Says Aversa, "Apple wants to sell radio-equipped computers that would operate on the wireless frequencies. WinForum's partners also are interested in selling equipment for the new frequencies." Attorney James Burger, who has been working on the FCC's plan for Apple, is disappointed longer-range communications links -- up to nearly 13 miles -- can't be used under the FCC's plan. That would have permitted computers in a community to be linked. So, he says, the FCC's plan won't do much to help rural schools because the radio signals would probably need to travel at least that far to reach a central school office hooked to the Internet. Also, says the wire service, the technology won't work well in cities because the signals can't penetrate brick walls or glass very well without additional equipment to boost the signals.

FCC OKs Wireless Net Plans

As predicted, the FCC has cleared the way for creation of new wireless devices that could allow people to tap into the Internet and exchange e-mail, faxes and computer files. As reported, the plan could offer schools, hospitals and businesses a potentially cheaper, wireless way to connect to the Net by setting aside a large chunk of radio frequencies for free and unlicensed high-speed communication over short distances.

Associated Press writer Jeannine Aversa notes it is up to private companies to actually develop wireless equipment to work on the frequencies. They would have at most a three-mile range. The FCC made the new frequencies available at the request of equipment makers Apple Computer Inc. and WinForum, a group comprising Lucent Technologies Inc., Motorola Inc. and Northern Telecom Inc.

Motorola spokesman Tim Kellogg told AP his employer also is developing products but declined to discuss availability or price. "Since the frequencies are unlicensed," says Aversa, "users would not have to pay for service, as users of cellular phones do. Instead, the frequencies would be treated like those used for cordless telephones."

FCC Commissioner Susan Ness told the wire service, "Wireless local area network and other equipment can now be developed to connect our computers, laptops and personal digital assistants to each other, to the Internet of today and to the global information infrastructure of tomorrow. In many buildings, including schools, a wireless connection will be a cost-effective alternative to pulling wire through walls and ceilings."

Gateway Adopts Zip Technology

Iomega Corp. reports that it has begun supplying Gateway 2000 Inc. with

internal Zip drives. The devices will be sold as optional storage equipment for Gateway's desktop PCs. Iomega's drives allow users to save, use, organize and manage information on removable 100MB Zip disks. Zip drives and disks have quickly gained popularity as an alternative to traditional floppy disk because they provide 70 times more capacity and faster performance.

"Today's multimedia applications, operating systems, and Internet services are creating a greater demand for storage," says Timothy L. Hill, vice president of worldwide sales and marketing at Roy, Utah-based Iomega. "As one of the largest personal computer makers in the world, Gateway is addressing these needs with affordable products that expand their customers' storage capabilities rather than limiting them." Gateway is the latest of several PC makers to adopt Iomega's Zip technology in its systems.

Net Telephone Unveiled

A Silicon Valley start-up called InfoGear Technology Corp. has teamed with telephone maker Cidco Inc. to introduce a telephone that can surf the Internet as well as make calls. iPhone can be used to send and receive electronic mail, visit the World Wide Web and conduct some Web transactions, writes reporter Barbara Grady of the Reuter News Service. It features a screen that measures 7.4 inches diagonally and a pop-out keyboard for tasks like writing e-mail or typing in Web page addresses.

InfoGear President Robert Marshall told the wire service, "This product is not designed to replace the PC but to get on and off the Web quickly and allow consumers cheap, easy access. You can use it to order flowers, make travel arrangements, check stock quotes -- you know, on the way out the door you want to do something but don't want to spend three minutes booting up the PC."

Marshall said he expected the phone to sell for about \$500. However, Morgan Hill, California-based Cidco and InfoGear of Redwood City, California, plan to sell it initially to telephone carriers to market to their subscribers. Grady notes, though, the phone will face a lot of competition by the time it hits the retail market, which is expected by June. Marshall said the iPhone technology was developed by InfoGear and was based on work started at National Semiconductor Corp. It uses National Semiconductor chips. Cidco, which makes advanced telephones and caller ID systems, developed the telephone hardware.

Netscape Delivers 1 Million Servers

Netscape Communications Corp. delivered a million Internet and intranet servers in 1996, although not all the deliveries generated revenue, the Mountain View, California, company says. According to the Reuter News Service, Netscape noted the delivery total included downgrades of free trial versions of the software as well as final versions for which it received revenue. It declined to break out the percentage of servers that generated revenue.

Netscape officials say the company sees accelerating momentum for the products, and identified Fortune 500 customers of its software for corporate intranets, internal networks based on Internet technology. "The clients included Lockheed Martin, United Technologies' Pratt and Whitney unit, Rockwell International, in addition to Chrysler Corp., Prudential Securities and US West," Reuters reports. Netscape Vice President Srivats Sampath of server marketing told the wire service, "It took Lotus Notes

seven years to get a million seats and in our case it took us a year to get a million servers."

Netscape Stock Takes a Dive

Netscape Communications Corp. stock tumbled more than 10 percent yesterday Tuesday), after cautionary comments by a Wall Street analyst regarding the firm. The stock dropped \$4.50 to \$42.25 on the Nasdaq market on volume of more than 6.5 million shares. Apparently prompting the dive was Merrill Lynch analyst Bruce Smith's research note that Netscape had scrambled to make its fourth-quarter goals in a way that could hurt its current first quarter and the outlook for all of 1997.

Writing for the Reuter News Service, reporter Samuel Perry notes this is the second time in less than a week that Netscape stock has taken a beating. In fact, "the stock of the Mountain View, California-based company has lost more than a quarter of its value since the end of 1996, including a drop of around 19 percent after another analysts' warning last Wednesday."

Analyst Smith said he remained neutral on the stock but cited industry sources as saying Netscape had scrambled to meet its fourth-quarter numbers at the end of 1996, which he said did not bode well for its current quarter and all of 1997. Added Smith, "They closed a significant amount of business on Dec. 31 just to make the quarter, which they've never had to do before." In his research note, he wrote, "We have heard of two major deals that were closed on Dec. 31, one of which apparently closed late in the evening."

However, a Netscape spokeswoman rebutted this, saying the company did complete some of its deals toward the end of the quarter, but denying it was pushing down to the wire to lock up deals that would make a major impact on its financial results. "We did no deals that were of materially significance on Dec. 31," she said. "Sure, we did deals towards the end of the quarter, like everyone does."

Last Wednesday's tumble came after Deutsche Morgan Grenfell analyst William Gurley cut his rating on the Netscape stock to "accumulate" from "buy" and cited risks from its transition to a new business plan and new pricing. Perry says several other analysts, including Goldman Sachs's Michael Parekh and Morgan Stanley & Co.'s Mary Meeker, have put "buy" or "strong buy" ratings on the stock, recognizing near-term risks but remaining upbeat on the stock in the longer term.

Apple Posts \$120M 1Q Loss

Apple Computer Inc., which late yesterday reported a \$120 million loss in its first fiscal quarter, is warning investors it doesn't expect to return to profitability until September. The struggling computer maker says much of the loss can be attributed to slow holiday season sales of its Performa computers. Apple's loss, which equaled 96 cents a share, compared with a loss of \$69 million, or 56 cents a share, in the year-ago period. Sales for the company's first fiscal quarter, which ended on Dec. 27, fell to \$2.13 billion from \$3.15 billion.

Apple says it plans to develop additional restructuring programs during the second quarter with the goal of returning profitability by the fourth fiscal quarter, which ends Sept. 26. "While we were very disappointed by the Performa sales results and the associated loss, our financial position remains sound," says Fred Anderson, Apple's chief financial officer. "We exited the quarter with \$1.8 billion in cash and continued to show

improvements in our inventory management during the quarter." In trading this morning (Jan 16), Apple was down nearly 3 percent, dropping 50 cents to \$16.75 a share. Apple's shares fell 62 1/2 cents Wednesday, before the Cupertino, California, company posted its results.

OS Shipments Up 9.6% in 1996

Researchers at International Data Corp. say worldwide shipments of personal computer operating systems rose 9.6 percent last year to 74.8 million units. Reporting from Seattle, the Reuter News Service quotes IDC research director Dan Kusnetzky as saying the increase from 68.3 million operating systems shipped in 1996 was below the firm's original estimate of a 15.6 percent growth rate, largely reflecting a sluggishness in PC sales.

Adds Reuters, "Operating system shipments closely track PC sales, although some personal computers have more than one operating system and some operating system software is sold separately." Some particulars from Kusnetzky included:

- ' • Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 easily was the market leader in 1996, accounting for 62.9 percent of all operating systems shipped, up from 28.6 percent the year before.
- ' • Windows 3.x and DOS operating system accounted for 17.4 percent of systems shipped, down from 49.1 percent in 1995.
- ' • Microsoft Windows NT Workstation rose to 3 percent of the market from 0.8 percent the year before.
- ' • IBM's OS/2 system fell to just 3.3 percent of the market from 6.2 percent in 1995, while various versions of DOS alone fell to 3.3 percent from 5.1 percent.
- ' • Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh operating system fell to 6.6 percent of the overall market from 6.8 percent.

Reuters adds, "The IDC report, which does not count operating system upgrades, is based largely on figures reported by the software makers supplemented by interviews with computer manufacturers and others."

Hard Drive Shipments Up in '96

Dataquest Inc. reports that the worldwide hard drive market showed slower growth in 1996 as unit shipments increased 18 percent over 1995, well below 1995's growth rate of 30 percent. The San Jose, California, market researcher says shipments reached 106 million units in 1996, up from 90 million units shipped in 1995.

Seagate topped Quantum as the top-selling disk drive vendor as a result of Seagate's merger with Conner Peripherals early in 1996. Quantum had held the top position since 1993. "Nineteen ninety-six was a pretty good year, in spite of a slow start, and we believe that 1997 will be even better," said Phil Devin, vice president and chief analyst of Dataquest's computer storage program. "All companies are producing good volumes of desirable products and prices are not being driven down to unacceptable levels. Book-to-bill ratios are the highest in years."

The biggest market-share gain came from Western Digital Corporation, which increased its market share 4.7 percentage points from 13.7 percent in 1995 to 18.4 percent in 1996. Devin attributes this strong growth to Western Digital attracting customers previously loyal to Conner, Quantum, and Seagate. Dataquest's Web site is located at www.dataquest.com.

AOL Sued by California Users

Five frustrated California subscribers have sued America Online saying that when they try to log on, all they get is a busy signal. Filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the class-action suit seeks \$20 million, claiming negligence and consumer fraud. The Associated Press says the plaintiffs contend AOL's new price plan boosted the number of users even though the system was unable to handle the increased load. The suit says the subscribers have encountered "busy and unavailable phone lines and/or inaccessible computer equipment" since the company began offering unlimited access for a \$19.95 fee at the beginning of the year.

The action was brought by Richard Basch, Robert Friedland, Jeffrey Rayden and James Kranz of Los Angeles County and Jason Cartwright of San Diego County. Their attorney, Louis Marlin, told AP, "They try over and over and over again to try and get in and they get a constant busy signal. One client tried 26 times the other night." Marlin said the \$20 million sought is only a minimum estimate "to give warning to the other side that we are seeking significant monetary damages."

The suit also asks for a court order stopping AOL from selling any more flat-fee, unlimited-access service until there is "sufficient equipment" to handle the increased amount of users. Meanwhile, AOL said in a statement, "We expect to prevail in the class action suits addressing member access to AOL," adding, "Although we understand the frustration some members are experiencing at not being able to obtain immediate local access during peak periods, the average AOL member gets more value under unlimited pricing than ever before." AOL said in the statement it plans to expand the system's capacity through a \$250 million addition in equipment and services over the next two months. AP says a similar lawsuit against AOL was filed in Chicago on Dec. 18.

AOL Hit With More Lawsuits

More lawsuits have been filed against America Online by frustrated subscribers. And, probably not helping the situation, the Dulles, Virginia, online service also suffered a computer glitch yesterday that led to a shutdown of half the system for nearly four hours. Writing for the Reuter News Service, reporter Therese Poletti says system problems led AOL to shut down half of its system from 3:45 p.m. EST until about 7:30 p.m. to find the problem.

An AOL spokeswoman told the wire service, "The system was able to accommodate 124,000 subscribers." Reuters quotes AOL as saying it usually accommodates about 258,000 users simultaneously. "The problem," adds Poletti, "was with an interface board in a router device, which manages the flow of data in a network, the company said. AOL said its network was back to full capacity by 8 p.m. EST. The spokeswoman said the outage was not related to the onslaught of member usage since AOL switched to unlimited use for a flat rate of \$19.95 a month."

Meanwhile, on the legal front, two more lawsuits against AOL have been disclosed, both filed in New York state court this week, claiming breach of contract, deceptive trade practices and false advertising, says Reuters. As reported yesterday, AOL already has been hit with a suit in Los Angeles on behalf of five subscribers, seeking damages for what they call fraudulent and malicious representation. A similar lawsuit against AOL was filed in Chicago on Dec. 18.

And at least one other New York suit has been filed. The Associated Press reports Ezra Graber of Staten Island brought suit in Manhattan State Supreme Court, contending AOL subscribers "are greeted with busy signals, and, once online, encounter serious technical difficulties because of, among other things, insufficient support," making their subscription "virtually useless."

"In addition," says Poletti, "at least two state attorneys general have confirmed they are in discussions with America Online, seeking some resolution to complaints they have received from consumers about the continuing problem of network access." Specifically, New York state Attorney General Dennis Vacco and Wisconsin state Attorney General Jim Doyle are in discussions with AOL, Reuters says. The suits contend that since AOL began offering its members unlimited access for \$19.95 a month, its network has been deluged by subscribers, many of whom cannot log onto the system during peak evening hours or on weekends.

Intel Faces MMX Rights Fight

A copyright fight appears to be in the offing between chip giant Intel Corp. and its traditional rivals, Cyrix Corp. and Advanced Micro Devices Inc., over rights to the name of Intel's new MMX chip technology. As reported, Intel Corp. has unveiled its much-anticipated Pentium processors with MMX (multimedia extension) technology designed to offer users PCs with improved graphics, video and audio features.

In The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporter Dean Takahashi writes that Intel has notified the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that it intends to trademark the name MMX, which stands for multimedia extension. However, Cyrix and AMD contend Intel isn't entitled to a trademark on the MMX name, and both said they intend to use it in their own forthcoming chips. Said AMD spokesman John Greenagel, "We don't believe MMX is a valid trademark. We think it is a generic term, and we plan to use the term in our marketing. We're trying to solve this amicably with Intel."

And Cyrix Vice President Steven Tobak told the paper his employer plans to introduce an MMX-equivalent chip in the first half of this year and it will include the MMX name, over Intel's objections. Takahashi says Cyrix cloned its version of MMX technology, while AMD licensed its version from Intel. Intel Vice President Michael Aymar said the chipmaker didn't give away any rights to use the MMX name. In fact, adds the Journal, "Intel will be including MMX in a redesigned logo as part of a multimillion-dollar marketing campaign that began yesterday and picks up speed in a couple of weeks with extensive advertising world-wide."

New York State Sued Over New Net Law

A new state law in New York State imposing restrictions on "indecent" online material is being challenged as unconstitutional in a suit by the American Civil Liberties Union and a number of library, publishing and Internet groups. Filed this morning in federal court in New York City, the suit argues the law's prohibition on online distribution of indecent material to minors would effectively ban distribution of the same material to adults, including works of art and literature, safe-sex information and "a wide range of robust human discourse" that could include sexually oriented language.

According to the Dow Jones news service, the suit alleges that because minors have general access to the Internet, and because Internet postings and home pages are accessible to New York residents no matter where they

originated, the state's law "effectively would require almost all discourse on the Internet, whether among New Yorkers or among users anywhere in the world, to be at a level suitable for young children." The wire service notes the law, which took effect Nov. 1, makes it a felony to use any "computer communication system" to distribute material containing nudity or sexual content and which is "harmful to minors" - anyone under age 18. The potential penalties for anyone convicted under the law range to up to four years in prison.

The law is similar in intent to the federal Communications Decency Act, which criminalizes the online dissemination of "patently offensive" sexually explicit material to minors. Two federal appeals courts have declared the federal law unconstitutional, and the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to consider the issue. The New York suit seeks a declaration that the state law is unconstitutional, as well as preliminary and permanent injunctions barring the state from enforcing it. Besides the ACLU, the suit's plaintiffs include the American Library Association, the Magazine Publishers of America, the Association of American Publishers, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Interactive Digital Software Association, and three New York-area Internet service providers.

Olivetti Sells PC Division

An agreement to sell its personal computer division reportedly has been reached by Olivetti, the Italian information systems company. In Rome, the financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore says the buyers are Centenary Group, a European takeover company, and Italian businessman Gianmario Rossignolo. According to The Associated Press, an agreement in principle was reached late Friday night, and the deal could be announced within a few days. The Rome newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, says the division could be sold for about \$130 million. AP notes Olivetti, which employs about 28,000 people, has been in talks for several months to sell off the troubled PC unit. It wants to focus on information services.

New York State Waives Net Taxes

New York's State Tax Department has been directed to exempt Internet access service from sales taxes as part of Gov. George Pataki's effort to boost employment in the new industry. The Reuter News Service notes the action comes after the state tax department conducted a year-long study, required by 1995 legislation, on issues posed by the Internet, which was submitted to the governor this week by Taxation and Finance Commissioner Michael Urbach.

"The report also concluded that because Internet access services were not telecommunications, their receipts were outside the scope of the Section 186-3 gross receipts excise tax," Reuters notes. The wire service says New York state will not collect sales taxes from out-of-state or non-U.S. firms that advertise on the Internet through a New York-based access provider, a decision designed to make such firms more attractive to such entities. Said the governor, "New York is the first state in the nation to take this bold step. We have improved our competitive edge as we compete with places like Seattle and Silicon Valley in California for Internet-related jobs."

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Inaugural Web Site Launched

Last year's campaign was the first World Wide Web's first presidential campaign. Now the Net will have its first inauguration in conjunction with Bill Clinton's second term, which begins Jan. 20. "The Virtual Inaugural" site (reached at <http://www.inaugural97.com>) has been unveiled by the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Committee to provide updates and photographs of all the inaugural festivities.

Presidential Inaugural Committee co-chair Ann Dibble Jordan told United Press International, "A future generation of Americans will remember President Clinton's inauguration the same way we remember Herbert Hoover's inauguration, the first to be broadcast live on radio, and Harry Truman's, the first to be shown on television." The committee has announced a joint Internet venture with the Public Broadcasting Service to provide online lesson plans for middle school and high school teachers, adding students also can use the web site to study citizenship, democracy and the history of American inaugurations. Visitors to the site can get information on the parade, gala or Mall and can their home states on a map and learn about local participants and other items of interest. The web site will have an inaugural schedule, accommodation information and details on events.

HAL Has First Birthday (Again)

Happy Birthday, HAL! The thinking, talking computer -- which reads lips, plays chess and eliminates astronauts in the sf classic "2001: A Space Odyssey" -- celebrates a birthday today, well, srta. In Arthur C. Clarke's original book version of "2001," HAL is activated on Jan. 12, 1997, at the "HAL Plant" in Urbana, New York. However, the successful film version of

the story shifted the birth year five years forward, to 1992. In both, notes Associated Press writer Matt Kelley, "HAL became a symbol of technology's dangers as well as its promise.

The goal of a computer that really thinks is still unrealized. That doesn't mean computer scientists here aren't trying, however." Incidentally, when Clarke was writing his tale in the 1960s, scientists at the University of Illinois still were building Illiac IV, then the largest and fastest computer in the world. "That computer," says Kelley, "ran at 13 megahertz, less than a tenth the speed of a common PC today, and had just 1 megabyte of memory, a fraction of what's standard on modern home computers."

Bill Gates Eyes Gumbel for MSNBC

Word is Microsoft Corp. chief Bill Gates wants Bryant Gumbel, who recently left "Today" after 15 years on the morning TV show, to play a major role in MSNBC, Microsoft's joint venture with NBC, home of "Today." No one's confirming that, but The Associated Press reports Gumbel recent toured Microsoft's Redmond, Washington, facilities and met with Gates.

In California, Merrill Brown, MSNBC editor in chief, told the wire service the purpose of Gumbel's visit "was to get more Internet savvy and to understand what we're doing, both at Microsoft and at MSNBC." Added Brown, "We did a little demo for him, we let him sit through the news meeting and he had stimulating things to say about the news and what we may or may not do about it."

Traditional Modem's Days Numbered

The days of the traditional telephone modem are numbered, predicts market researcher Frost & Sullivan. "The slow decline over the next several years in the traditional analog dial-up modem market is a direct result of the acceptance of the new high speed cable and digital ADSL modem technologies," says Brian Phillips, an analyst for the Mountain View, California, company. In order to catch users' attention and draw them to their Web sites, site designers are incorporating more extensive graphics and animation in their Web pages. This can make the process of accessing a home page to find specific information tedious, particularly when several hundred kilobits of graphics must be downloaded along with the desired information.

This trend will cause a shift in the kinds of modem hardware used for Internet access, driving the need for higher speed digital and cable modems. But Frost & Sullivan doesn't expect the change to occur overnight. "High speed technologies will impact the market in a significant way, but will not take over," says Phillips. "There will be room for dial-up, ISDN and high speed access to coexist in the 21st century modem market. Those companies that stay on top of the market and technology developments and are able to determine which market niche is best suited for them will be the most successful."

Netscape sees server momentum grow with new products

Netscape Communications Corporation Monday said it is seeing momentum accelerate for the Netscape SuiteSpot family of Intranet servers. The company delivered more than one million servers in 1996. Netscape continues to build its server momentum this week by announcing the availability of two more products in the new SuiteSpot 3.0 line: the final version of Netscape Proxy Server 2.5 and the beta version of Netscape Collabra Server

3.0.

Multi-service access switches adopt ID authentication

Dynatech Communications, Inc. announced Monday that DynaStar multi-service access switches are available with Security Dynamics' ACE/Server and SecurID user authentication technologies. DynaStar Access Switches utilize a packet/frame/cell architecture offering a multi-service capability for solutions to universal access in enterprise networks and protocol mediation in carrier networks. DynaStar's scaleable architecture will migrate traffic from X.25- to-IP-to-ATM as well as carry Frame Relay, ISDN and SDLC data on one platform.

Adobe and Fujitsu to provide scan-to-the-web solution

Adobe Systems Incorporated and Fujitsu Computer Products of America Monday announced they signed an agreement to provide a solution to convert paper-based and electronic information into searchable electronic documents ready for distribution via corporate Intranets, the World Wide Web and CD-ROM. The agreement will provide customers with a web-ready document-imaging solution that can support a broad range of user needs. Distribution will occur without spending time re-authoring documents into other formats.

AOL spends more on network upgrade as membership soars

America Online Inc., plagued with overload problems and angry members, said Thursday it will spend even more than planned to shore up its network, amid another soaring subscriber growth report. The Dulles, Va.-based company has experienced service outages since it switched its members to unlimited usage for \$19.95 a month in December. The largest online services company in the world said it will now spend \$350 million to upgrade its network, instead of \$250 million as previously planned, to add new modems and build an 180,000 square foot data center.

Telecoms sign Internet connectivity agreement

Virtual Telecom, Inc., announced Thursday the signing of an Internet connectivity agreement with British Telecom Ltd., Geneva to acquire dual high quality Internet connections to the British Telecom/MCI Communications Corp. worldwide Internet backbone (Concert Internet Plus). This agreement will allow Virtual Telecom to deliver high-availability "industrial strength" Internetworking connectivity over its domestic Swiss network. Virtual Telecom operates as a Swiss-based Internet service and information provider.

New full-service network offered for rural Colo. Subscribers

RELTEC Corporation and Aware, Inc., have joined to deploy digital multicarrier technology for telephony to provide POTS, Calling Name and Number, FAX and data services to Pacific Telecom, Inc. (PTI) subscribers in an ongoing field trial at Rocky Ford, Colo., the companies said Thursday. Larry Burton, vice president of RELTEC Loop Electronics, said the PTI trial represents the first application anywhere of digital multicarrier technology for telephony. The trial began in mid-September.

Bonn vows to fight neo-Nazis in cyberspace

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel vowed Thursday that Germany would remain vigilant in its fight against neo-Nazis and was determined to stamp out their racist propaganda--even in cyberspace. "We will not allow the

Internet to be used as an electronic meeting place for the extreme right wing," Kinkel said. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet approved the bill last November to protect Internet users' privacy and keep out Nazi propaganda and pornography--a project the United States and other governments have largely given up as impossible without compromising civil liberties.

North Korean news agency debuts on Internet

North Korea formally made its debut on the Internet Thursday in what one of its officials said was a bid to remove "misunderstandings" about one of the world's most reclusive nations. Reports in English from the official Korean Central News Agency were made available to Internet users worldwide. The address is <http://www.kcna.co.jp>. An official from the Korea News Service said North Korea also planned eventually to disseminate information on the web in the Korean and Japanese languages.

Wireless modem jack connects to Internet from AC outlet

FutureNet has developed a wireless modem jack that converts any electrical outlet into an enhanced jack with a range of 75 feet. A user can plug the unit into any electrical outlet and connect to the Internet. The wireless jack is an FM carrier extension system designed to work with computer modems. All of the control tones and pulses except the ring signal are transmitted in both directions along with the duplex audio signals. The power lines are isolated from the phone lines at each end by the use of high-voltage, U.L. approved capacitors and inductors.

Network Internet access offered through single connection

Microtest, Inc. Monday announced the forthcoming release of WebEtc, a software solution that allows multiple network users to simultaneously access the Internet through one modem and one Internet connection. WebEtc is compatible with Windows 3.x, Windows 95 or Windows NT. It requires no special client software and operates on either Microsoft or Novell networks, without the need for a dedicated PC or server. WebEtc automatically configures itself during installation. It is scheduled to ship Jan. 31.

Artisoft now shipping Visual Voice Text-to-Speech v2.0

Artisoft, Inc. announced Monday it is shipping Visual Voice Text-to-Speech (TTS) v2.0. The latest version of Visual Voice Text-to-Speech adds the ability for software applications to convert ASCII strings or files into highly intelligible speech. Version 2.0 of Visual Voice Text-to-Speech now supports Microsoft's Speech Application Programming Interface (SAPI), allowing developers to take advantage of a variety of SAPI TTS engines offering multilingual support, unlimited vocabulary and nine voice types.

Ziff-Davis launches 10 new international editions

Building on ZDNet's growth in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and United States, Ziff-Davis Wednesday announced the launch of 10 new, international editions of ZDNet on the World Wide Web. ZDNet China debuted Wednesday. Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, Korea, Malaysia/Singapore, Russia, Spain and Taiwan will be online with their local editions of ZDNet in March. ZDNet Japan will debut in April. Each edition will feature the 10,000-title ZDNet Software Library as well as local translations of ZDNet's news and buying information. In November 1996, the company said, 34.5 percent of ZDNet's monthly visits came from outside the U.S.

Brooktrout to accelerate Internet telephony standards development

In a move to accelerate development of standards in Internet telephony, Brooktrout Technology, Inc., has proposed to extend existing International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standards for real-time transmission of fax on packet data networks. The proposal extends the existing standards to IP networks including the Internet. Broadening its participation in Internet telephony standards development, Brooktrout also announced that it has joined the Voice Over IP (VoIP) Forum. The VoIP Forum is a group of 40 computer and telephony vendors to ensure and promote industry-wide interoperability of Internet voice communications products.

Exabyte announces 8mm technology available

Exabyte Corp. Wednesday reported that the Exabyte EXB-8700LT is now available to end users within the United States. The field proven 8mm tape drive is designed for high-end desktop and network applications, has a capacity of 10GB (compressed) and a transfer rate of 60 MB per minute. Exabyte Corp. says the EXATAPE 8mm data cartridges are readily available and more cost effective than the 4mm DAT counterpart. Exabyte storage products provide cost-effective compact data storage in one of the fastest-growing segments of the computer industry.

Peru hostage takers call for support on Internet

Marxist rebels holding 74 hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence posted a message on their Internet web page Wednesday urging supporters to help pressure President Alberto Fujimori to release their imprisoned comrades. Fujimori has refused to give in to rebel demands to swap the 74 hostages for 400 jailed MRTA members. The MRTA web page gave the address and fax number of Fujimori's Government Palace and electronic mail addresses of local human rights groups, the International Red Cross and news organizations.

E-9-1-1 compliance solutions proffered

AccuCom, a San Diego-based provider of wireless location solutions, said Wednesday it can solve infrastructure cost concerns involved in compliance with Enhanced 9-1-1 mobile services rules the Federal Communications Commission issued in June. In complying to the two-phase FCC ruling, wireless carriers were faced with "who pays?" and "how much?" questions in deploying the technology. AccuCom President Paul Bouchard said in exchange for providing hardware, AccuCom would contract with carriers to provide and/or re-sell various location-based services and applications as well as share a 9-1-1 surcharge. Beta testing could begin later this year.

China eases Internet blocks but keeps careful watch

Beijing has loosened controls barring Chinese Internet users from accessing foreign news sources but is keeping watch for politically suspect content on the worldwide computer network, an official said Wednesday. Blocks imposed last year on Internet Web sites operated by CNN, the Wall Street Journal and other news providers had all been removed, industry experts in the Chinese capital said. China is eager to be part of the technological revolution, but officials have long been concerned that the information superhighway could bypass strict communist control of the media and fuel internal dissent.

Office 97 Top NEW Features

A quick overview of the top new features in Microsoft Office 97. Get organized with a unified workspace and tighter integration between all Office applications

- Microsoft Outlook - Provides an integrated desktop where you can organize and manage your e-mail, calendar, contacts, tasks, and files in one place.
- Auto Journal - Logs Outlook communications and Microsoft Office application activities.
- Address book integration - Stores your address book contacts in one location for easy access from any Office application.
- Multiple views - Allows you to view information in any Outlook folder by icon, table, card, timeline, or calendar, or to customize your own view.
- Complete portable solution - Takes your Outlook information with you by way of paper planner, laptop computer, personal data assistant, or Timexr DataLink watch.
- Office Binder - Stores all your files for a project in one place-you can even add common headers and footers so they look and print like one document.
- Get connected with Internet-ready software that enhances interactive collaboration.
- Adding Hyperlinks - Creates live links to a file or site automatically when you type the URL or UNC address.
- ActiveWeb - Allows you to author and view documents in their native format on your corporate intranet or the Internet Full-text searching Enables you to find information on your network quickly and easily.
- Web toolbar - Brings the navigational and searching tools of the Web to your Office applications.
- Save as HTML in Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and PowerPoint - Saves your Office documents into HTML format with the click of a button for posting to the Internet or corporate intranets
- Web templates in Word - Provides custom templates to design great looking.
- Web pages Document Versioning in Word - Tracks and stores all previous version of your document in one file.
- Web Queries in Microsoft Excel - Pull real-time information from Web sites directly into your worksheet.
- Publish To The Web in Microsoft Access - Converts your data or reports to HTML so you can create dynamic, interactive database pages and share them across a company intranet or the World Wide Web.
- Save to URL in Microsoft Excel - Allows you to save to a Web server by simply specifying the URL address.
- PowerPoint Animation Player for ActiveXT - Lets you publish presentations to the Internet as a Web page with animation and narration
- Get results with a personalized desktop and intelligent software.
- Office Assistant Provides interactive advice, help, and tips to help you learn as you work and it's completely customizable so you can choose the Assistant and the options that best suit the way you work.

- Grammar Check and Spell It in Word - Proofread your documents for spelling and grammatical errors as you type, and correct errors with one click of the right mouse button.
- Enhanced Auto Correct in Word - Corrects common multiple-word typographical and grammatical errors, fixes capitalization mistakes, and creates handy shortcuts for frequently used text and graphics.
- Natural language formulas in Microsoft Excel - Allow you to use your own terminology when building formulas.
- Multiple Undo in Microsoft Excel - Allows you to undo multiple commands.
- AutoPreview in Outlook - Lets you view the first three lines of each e-mail message.
- IntelliMouse support in Office 97 applications - Takes advantage of the IntelliMouse Wheel for enhanced navigation, close-up viewing, and panning left and right (hardware sold separately).
- Office Art - Gives you drawing tools to easily design sophisticated 3-D effects, shadows, multicolored fills, textures, and Bezier curves.
- Images and fonts on CD-ROM - Includes approximately 3,000 clip-art images and 150 fonts.

One Window to Your World of Information

Microsoft Outlook 97

Introducing Microsoft Outlook 97, a breakthrough in workgroup and individual desktop information management. With Outlook, you and your team can organize, integrate, and manage electronic mail, calendars, tasks, contacts, documents, and scheduling—all from one window. Microsoft Outlook 97 desktop information manager for the Windows 95 and Windows NT Workstation operating systems helps you communicate, organize, and manage all of your information with one centralized application.

Get organized.

Organization begins with the Outlook Bar—the user-friendly navigation tool that creates shortcuts to your e-mail inbox, calendar, contacts, tasks, mail folders, favorite World Wide Web sites, and documents. With the Outlook drag-and-drop feature, you can quickly move data, schedule appointments, and prioritize your tasks. You can even use drag-and-drop to create new Outlook items automatically from existing ones.

Communicate with ease.

Outlook provides the e-mail functionality you've been waiting for! You're a step ahead with e-mail features such as Auto Preview, which displays the first three lines of each e-mail message so you can scan through and prioritize them quickly. You can also use Message Flag to mark your e-mail messages with due dates or follow-up actions, and Voting and Tracking to tally your team's opinions on issues. Outlook 97 also gives you powerful personal contact management tools. You can store extensive information about each contact, including multiple phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses—even an Internet URL.

Use the revolutionary Outlook Journal to maintain an itemized log of your activities and to track your phone calls. Now you can track and find Microsoft Word documents and e-mail messages based on when you last worked on them, instead of searching for the file names or locations.

Use Outlook with all of your Microsoft Office applications. Outlook is fully integrated with Microsoft Office 97 so you can organize and communicate seamlessly across your applications. To take full advantage of this integration, use the new Office Assistant for easy, interactive guidance. Information and communication have never been so intuitive. Outlook works the way you do-you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

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A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

Shareware Treasure Chest STR Feature

"The Latest & Greatest"

Shareware Treasure Chest

By Lloyd E. Pulley
lepulley@streport.com

Lloyd will be back in a few weeks. He underwent Open Heart Surgery this past week. Your prayers and good wishes are appreciated.

Edupage

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BEEPER MADNESS

A technical glitch on Thursday caused the SkyTel paging network to send erroneous call-me-back messages to more than 100,000 customers. The problem was exacerbated when some diligent subscribers returned the call and left their phone numbers so that whoever had beeped them could call back. The result was a 26-minute major phone traffic jam as thousands of other SkyTel customers then called those numbers. Apparently, the whole mess started when a customer desiring a new PIN (personal identification number) was mistakenly assigned one linked to a secret code that the company uses to beam Dow Jones News Service information out to 100,000 customers. The PIN, a seven-digit number that looked like a phone number, was zapped to the Dow Jones subscribers, many of whom then tried to dial it as a local call. Others recognized it as a PIN, and called SkyTel to retrieve the "caller's" number, jamming the lines there. "One frequency of our one-way nationwide network experienced an anomaly in the database that caused customers to be paged erroneously," says a spokesman for SkyTel's parent company, MTel, which has apologized for the snafu. (Wall Street Journal 10 Jan 97 A1)

TIME WARNER OFFERS INTERNET COACHING IN THE CLASSROOM

As part of its 1995 settlement negotiated with the Federal Communications Commission over cable rate complaints, Time Warner Cable has launched "Cable Connections," a combination of teacher training materials and workshops designed to assist teachers in incorporating Internet access and cable programming in their lesson plans. The company already provides free cable hook-ups to about 90% of the schools in its service areas, which receive 500 hours a month of commercial-free educational programming through the industry's Cable in the Classroom program. Now Time Warner will provide free connections to its ROAD RUNNER high-speed Internet access, including a free cable modem and service throughout the school year. (BNA Daily Report for Executives 8 Jan 97 A19)

FCC DESIGNATES WIRELESS SPECTRUM FOR SCHOOLS, OTHERS

The Federal Communications Commission has set aside 300 megahertz of spectrum for free, unlicensed, short-range wireless communications by individuals, schools, hospitals and libraries. Metricom's Ricochet network already provides its subscribers with wireless data communications and Internet access using an unlicensed portion of the radio spectrum. The FCC anticipates similar services proliferating, as well as educational and medical applications, such as teachers using the designated airwaves to call up student background records and grades from the schools central database using handheld machines or doctors calling up X-rays from a hospital database and ordering drugs from the pharmacy. (Investor's Business Daily 10 Jan 97 A21)

DOE'S ACCELERATED STRATEGIC COMPUTING INITIATIVE

The reduction of the arms race is causing a computer race, as the U.S. Department of Energy steps up the pace of developing high-performance computers. "In this program, we have to work with the computer industry to compress the length of time between... generations of computers," says the DOE deputy assistant secretary for strategic computing and simulation. The high-powered machines are needed to perform the complex calculations that are used to assess factors such as the impact of aging on weapons and their ability to perform. The DOE says it will need supercomputers capable of performing at least 100 trillion operations per second by the year 2004. To accelerate the process, the agency has established the Academic Strategic Alliances Program to create and fund university "centers of excellence." (Science News 4 Jan 97 p7)

TRY THIS BUS FOR SPEED

Intel plans to add a 100-MHz bus to its Pentium Pro microprocessors, allowing the company to bump up chip speeds to 400 MHz by next year. The GTL+ bus will appear later this year on Pentium Pro chips with clock speeds of 300 MHz. Meanwhile, the company will continue to enhance existing Pentium Pro processors that use the 66-MHz internal bus -- in the next few months, Intel will introduce 233-MHz and 266-MHz chips. (Information Week 6 Jan 97 p24)

EUROPEAN UNION WANTS SALES TAX ON TELECOM SERVICES

The European Union is planning to adopt a rule that allows EU governments to impose value-added taxes on all telecommunications services - including telephone "callback" systems that have been devised to circumvent high European phone rates for international calls by allowing Europeans to call

a callback service in the U.S., which immediately hangs up the call, returns it at the much-lower U.S. phone rates, and then connects the caller to the number originally dialed. Theoretically, the rule could also require U.S. companies selling goods over the Internet to pay value-added taxes on merchandise sold to European customers. Such taxes are in excess of 20 percent in some EU countries. (New York Times 11 Jan 97 p27)

IBM INTERNET SERVICE EXPERIENCES SOME PROBLEMS

IBM acknowledged that it has experienced some problems with e-mail delivery on its Internet Connection service, which has been ranked by PC World magazine as one of the best Internet access services. A number of messages were delayed, but IBM said it had "no reports of significant mail loss." IBM is working on a major upgrade of its servers in order to quadruple capacity. The number of current users on IBM's Internet Connect is reportedly in the low thousands. (Reuters 10 Jan 97)

BELLSOUTH TARGETS CELLULAR MARKET IN LATIN AMERICA

BellSouth, which already claims 450,000 of the 2 million cellular customers in Latin America, is rapidly expanding its activities there, and has just bought a majority stake in the Peruvian cellular phone company called Tele 2000. The overall customer base in Latin America is expected to increase to 19 million within the next five years. BellSouth's president for Latin American operations calls the use of cellular phones a "cultural phenomenon" and says: "In the United States, people often leave cellular phones in their cars, but in Latin America, people carry them everywhere they go." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 12 Jan 97 G5)

PROGRAMMER PLEADS GUILTY OF DEFRAUDING AOL

A former Yale computer science student has pleaded guilty to defrauding America Online and faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution to AOL for using that company's services without paying for them. AOL estimates it lost between \$40,000 and \$70,000 in service charges because the student distributed his computer program, which he called AOL4FREE, to hundreds of other computer users. (UPI 9 Jan 97)

INTERNET DEADBEATS

Network Solutions Inc., the authorized collector of fees paid for Internet addresses, reports that it's about \$10 million short of the \$20.7 million that should be in the account, based on the number of addresses registered since payment was first mandated in 1995. The unpaid fees are partly attributable to "speculators and resellers who have no intention of paying," says a spokesman for the National Science Foundation, the federal agency that appointed Network Solutions Inc. and oversees its work. Thirty percent of the money collected is earmarked for the "preservation and enhancement" of the "intellectual infrastructure" of the Internet, but so far, none of the funds have been spent. "The sooner that the money is spent on the good of the Internet, the better, in my opinion," says the president of the Internet Society. Meanwhile, a chemical engineering professor at Virginia Tech has called for a public accounting of the \$10.7-million shortfall: "I think NSF has a tiger by the tail, and the prudent action is to let go of the tail." (Washington Post 11 Jan 97 D1)

LOTUS TUNES UP NOTES; NETSCAPE, COREL DOUBLE-TEAM MICROSOFT

Lotus is revamping its Notes mail client, building in new calendar and scheduling features, in anticipation of competition from Microsoft Outlook. "Microsoft is getting ready to carpet bomb America with Outlook, which ships free with Office 97, and Lotus has to ready itself for that," says a Gartner Group VP. Lotus is also considering unbundling its Domino Server, giving users a choice of Internet standards-based servers for smaller clients. The announcements will be made later this month at Lotusphere 97. (InfoWorld Electric 10 Jan 97) Meanwhile, Netscape and Corel are producing their own rival to Microsoft's Office 97, based on Corel's WordPerfect suite of applications programs. The new version, due out in April, will incorporate Netscape's Communicator groupware software, which includes e-mail, conferencing and other collaboration products. (Wall Street Journal 14 Jan 97 B10)

ENCRYPTION EXPORT POLICY WON'T WORK, SAYS MCAFEE BOSS

McAfee Associates CEO Bill Larson says the U.S. government's latest approach to encryption product export just isn't going to work: "The question the administration has to ask itself is: Does it want to have an American encryption industry or not? If it does, it has to allow competition and free commerce to take place. If there were any terrorists who wanted to get 180-bit encryption, all they would have to do is walk into any U.S. store and buy our PCCrypto product. They could put one floppy into a briefcase and get on an airplane... All the governments -- the Russians, the Chinese -- already have their own internally developed 180-bit encryption." And the difference between 56-bit and 180-bit products is significant: "Basically, 48- to 56-bit encryption can be broken by a supercomputer in a matter of weeks. As you move up over 120-bit encryption, you're talking about months with a supercomputer. And 180-bit is a huge effort -- over six months." (Investor's Business Daily 13 Jan 97 A6)

ABA APPOINTS ELECTRONIC BANKING COMMITTEE

The American Bankers Association has created a Payments System Steering Committee to advise members on electronic banking and commerce issues. An ABA task force last fall recommended that only insured financial institutions should be permitted to issue stored-value card products, such as smart cards, and other forms of electronic money. "Technology and electronic payments are absolutely critical issues to the future of the banking industry," says the committee's chairman. (BNA Daily Report for Executives 13 Jan 97 A8)

ENGINEERING ED, VIA AFRICAN VIRTUAL U.

The African Virtual University, sponsored by the World Bank, is providing engineering students the opportunity to take courses in electrical engineering from a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The professor's stateside course is videotaped and transmitted via satellite to participating institutions in Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The professor is available by telephone three times a week to answer questions that the on-site instructor can't answer, or for which clarification is needed. Eventually, the African Virtual U. will be available in more than 40 countries on the African continent. (Chronicle of Higher Education 17 Jan 97 A24)

NEXTEL CUTS "ROAMING" RATES

Nextel Communications is trying to pull ahead of the wireless pack, announcing it will eliminate for about 300,000 of its one million

customers the exorbitant "roaming" rates charged by many cellular companies. The new plan begins February 1, and affects calls made from 50 different cities. "We've been somewhat of a stealth wireless company, but now we're about to emerge," says Nextel's CEO. "By the end of this year our second-generation digital network will address 70% of the U.S. population and 85% by next year." The company has already spent \$1.85 billion to construct its digital network and plans to channel \$2 billion more into efforts to secure nationwide coverage. (Wall Street Journal 14 Jan 97 B1)

INDICTMENTS FOR CHILD PORN ON NET

Ontario police have charged several people with downloading child pornography off the Internet. The police refuse to reveal the techniques they use to build cases against people caught with huge stockpiles of child porn, and defense lawyers and legal experts say constitutional issues surrounding the state's right to monitor a person's private computer will surface as the cases come to court. Defense lawyer Marie Henein finds it "a little frightening" that you could be sitting at your computer at home while the police are assessing what you're doing. She and another lawyer represent an Ontario man charged with distributing child pornography on the Internet after police seized 20,000 computer files containing photos and video clips. (Montreal Gazette 13 Jan 97 A5)

NCR AND COMPUTER ASSOCIATES FORM ALLIANCE

NCR Corporation, which was recently spun off from AT&T, has struck a deal with Computer Associates International (the world's second-largest independent software company after Microsoft) that would encourage NCR's large retail and financial-industry customers to use CA software to manage their systems. Last April Computer Associates worked out a similar arrangement with Digital Equipment Corporation. (New York Times 14 Jan 97 C4)

INTERNET JOB REGISTER

The Canadian government has introduced an Internet employment network for students and recent college and university graduates, called the National Graduate Register < <http://ngr.school-net.ca/> >. The service is free to students and employers, but in 1998 employers will be asked to pay a small fee to make the service self-supporting. The service cost \$750,000 to develop. (Ottawa Citizen 14 Jan 97 B6)

GATEWAY 2000 VICTIMIZED BY X-RATED SABOTAGE

A video distributed by Gateway 2000 Inc. to promote its new big-screen PC that performs TV, cable and stereo functions was found to contain 30 seconds of explicit sexual material, forcing the company to recall 20,000 copies of the tape. A company executive says it's a case of sabotage by some disgruntled employee, but is not sure whether the target of the sabotage was Gateway 2000 itself or the video house that produced the tape. (Wall Street Journal 14 Jan 97 B1)

BLANK SLATE

Michael Kinsley, the editor of "Slate," a Microsoft-supported Web-based political/cultural magazine, has abandoned plans to charge readers who visit its Web page. "Even in our headiest moments, we couldn't convince ourselves that people lust for political and cultural commentary the way they lust for sex and money," says Kinsley, who still plans to use e-mail

to deliver a printable version of the magazine for \$70 a year. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 14 Jan 96 B5)

FBI OFFERS NEW PROPOSAL FOR DIGITAL WIRETAPS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released for public comment a new proposal for facilitating tapping of digital phone calls by law enforcement officials armed with court orders. Under the new proposal, which is significantly more modest than what the Bureau had asked for in a earlier plan, law enforcement officials would operate under a formula in which (for example) 523 phone lines could be monitored simultaneously in a place such as Manhattan. Privacy advocates oppose the FBI's plan as an unacceptable expansion of electronic surveillance. (New York Times 15 Jan 97 A8)

CHINA LOOSENS RESTRAINTS ON INTERNET ACCESS

China has restored access to many Western media Internet sites, but barriers remain intact for sites that Beijing considers politically sensitive, particularly those containing news and commentaries from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Chinese language sites and those sponsored by Chinese dissident groups are also off-limits. The move to relax restrictions comes several months after access to some 100 sites was blocked last fall. The government has said it plans a more selective approach to Internet censorship in the future. (Wall Street Journal 16 Jan 97 B4)

SUIT SEEKS \$20 MILLION FROM AOL FOR BUSY SIGNALS

Five California men have brought a class-action suit for negligence and consumer fraud against America Online, charging in a Los Angeles Superior Court that AOL introduced flat-fee pricing that increased activity well beyond what it was prepared to handle, so that subscribers encountered "busy and unavailable phone lines and/or inaccessible computer equipment." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 15 Jan 97 B6)

NORTEL, BABY BELL HAVE INTERNET TRAFFIC CONTROL DEAL

Northern Telecom has signed a deal with American phone company SBC Communications introducing the first service to eliminate phone line "bottlenecks" due to exploding Internet use. SBC, which owns Southwestern Bell, will use Nortel's Internet phone service to route Internet calls to less-congested parts of its phone network. Nortel is the first equipment maker to address what carriers say is a growing problem -- too many Internet users tying up phone lines for too long. Nortel's new offering removes Internet calls from the voice network and places them on the carrier's data system, which is better able to handle such traffic. Nortel is talking to all U.S. and Canadian regional phone companies, and some British carriers, to sell its new Internet product. The potential market for Nortel's service is somewhere between \$1- and \$2-billion, he added. (Toronto Financial Post 16 Jan 97 p8)

JUST SAY NO TO CYBERTAXES

Representative Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) and Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) plan to propose a moratorium on any new federal, state or local taxes on electronic commerce. The Cox-Wyden bill calls on the Clinton Administration to develop a comprehensive Internet policy. (Business Week 20 Jan 97 p41)

COMPUTERS & JOBS

A new study prepared by Canadian Policy Research Networks concludes the spread of computers in the work place is wiping out job opportunities for unskilled workers. It points out that although computers have created more jobs than they have destroyed, employers have used computer-based technology to eliminate unskilled jobs, and have not given the displaced workers the training they would need to move into the new high-skill jobs. Currently, there is a sharp dichotomy in the employee make-up of computer-oriented vs. non-computer-oriented firms. In low-tech companies, managers and professionals comprise about 15% of all workers, while 36% are unskilled. In high-tech firms, 31% of workers are managers and professionals, and only 10% are unskilled. The biggest winners in the shift in job types are people who know their way around computers: about 15% of the new jobs created went to managers in engineering, architecture, science and information systems, while another 21% went to mathematicians, systems analysts and computer programmers. Overall, managers and professionals accounted for 53% of the new jobs created but only 9% of the jobs eliminated. The biggest losers were in "intermediate" jobs, mainly clerical jobs in corporate purchasing and accounting departments, and in banks and insurance companies. They accounted for 22.9% of the new jobs created by computers, but fully 60% of the job types eliminated. (Toronto Globe & Mail 15 Jan 97 B3)

AUTODESK BLUEPRINT TARGETS HOME IMPROVEMENT

Autodesk is launching a new product that offers a do-it-yourself approach to designing kitchens, and plans to follow up with software for designing homes and bathrooms. "This really is a huge category," says the CEO of Books That Work, another do-it-yourself software maker. "It really is a productive use of computers." The software allows users to experiment with various photo-quality combinations of cupboards, countertops and appliances, and view the result from various angles. (Wall Street Journal 15 Jan 97 B5)

HP COZIES UP TO INFORMIX, CISCO

Hewlett-Packard has cut deals with database maker Informix Corp. and networking giant Cisco Systems to promote their products as part of an HP marketing effort. Informix's Universal Server database, which is designed to handle multimedia data picked up off the Web, will be bundled into HP's Domain XE Enterprise Server this summer. And Cisco will recommend that its customers purchase HP computers in exchange for HP touting the benefits of Cisco networking products. "Companies must rapidly start moving toward the model of a global networked business if they are to prosper in the years ahead," says Cisco's CEO. (Investor's Business Daily 16 Jan 97 A6, A17)

OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH E-MAIL

Forrester Researcher says 15% of the U.S. population now uses e-mail, up from 2% in 1992. And they predict that within five years, that number will rise to about 50%. "It's the most popular online activity," says a Forrester analyst. "Growth will be fueled by the increase in home PC penetration and the growth of Internet access in corporations. Furthermore, the emergence of personalized services and tools that let ordinary people combine graphics and attachments will help make e-mail a preferred means of communication." (Investor's Business Daily 15 Jan 97 A6)

PHONE FRAUD IN ENGLAND

A man in England has filed suit against British Telecom because someone was able to hack into his phone line and run up several thousand of dollars in charges for calls to international sex lines. "This is not just about money," the man said. "Like many others in my position I was initially told by BT that phantom calls were not possible on a domestic line, the implication being that one of my three sons must have made the calls. That caused considerable and unjustified friction which affected the whole family." BT insists it treats all customers fairly and says: "We do not deny that domestic telephone fraud happens but it is rare. You have more chance of becoming a millionaire on the lottery than becoming a victim of telephone fraud." a spokesman said. But the Telecom Managers Association, of which BT is a member, says: "There are only two types of phone user -- those who have been defrauded and those who will be." (The Sunday Times of London, 12 Jan 97)

MICROSOFT, INTUIT SET THE PACE FOR INTERNET BANKING

Microsoft and Intuit Inc. have teamed up with Atlanta-based CheckFree Corp. to devise and promote a single standard for banking over the Internet. The Open Financial Exchange standard seeks to establish rules for exchanging financial data among financial institutions, businesses and consumers over the Internet. Both Microsoft and Intuit will modify their competing personal-finance programs to adhere to the new standard. Conflicting standards have been cited as one reason that online banking hasn't really caught on with consumers and financial institutions. "The banks are saying we don't want to have all of these choices," says an industry consultant. (Wall Street Journal 16 Jan 97 B4)

Edupage is written by John Gehl (gehl@educum.edu) & Suzanne Douglas
(douglas@educum.edu).

Voice: 404-371-1853, Fax: 404-371-8057.

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University of North Carolina.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans.

The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <http://cause-www.colorado.edu> or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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Adobe PageMaker 6.5 New Features STR Focus

ADOBE PAGEMAKER 6.5

New Feature Highlights

Overview

Adobe PageMaker has long offered the most complete set of tools for creating and producing professional-quality publications. Version 6.5 introduces significant new features that provide graphic designers, art directors, production artists, prepress professionals, and other publishers with more versatility and productivity in delivering publications in print and on the Internet.

Groundbreaking new layout capabilities dramatically improve how documents can be structured. These features offer graphics and publishing professionals great flexibility in page design while fully preserving PageMaker software's ease of use. With a newly revised interface, interactive tabbed palettes, and new menus and keyboard shortcuts, PageMaker looks and feels even more like Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and other Adobe software, so Adobe users will feel comfortable using any Adobe application.

Innovative, fully integrated on-line publishing tools make it possible to deliver sophisticated publications on the Internet in HTML format and also in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), which preserves the rich layout, fonts, and graphics of the original publication. Enhancements to high-fidelity color and additional leading-edge color features provide a more efficient color publishing workflow. Other new features enhance compatibility with products from

other vendors.

End-users have always preferred PageMaker for its reliability, high quality, and versatility. This latest release offers substantial new capabilities that build upon the application's previous strengths while

expanding the concept of professional publishing software.

Adobe PageMaker 6.5 New Features

Adobe Table 3.0 software

Now with support for color table creation and printed output.

Enhanced Grid Manager plug-in

For specifying and applying column guides, ruler guides, and baseline grids to any page in a publication, including master pages. Also lets users copy guides from existing pages and save custom grids for later use.

More than 15 new template designs

For on-line pages, newsletters, brochures, business cards, and other frequently used formats.

Enhanced polygon tool

Now supports drawing of irregularly shaped polygons and lines, as well as editing of polygons by adding, changing, or deleting points.

Integration with other Adobe software

Ability to import native Adobe Illustrator files directly in to PageMaker
The ability to place Adobe Illustrator files directly into publications and view high-quality previews on-screen saves time and helps eliminates the version control problems that can result when working with EPS files.

Interactive tabbed palettes

First introduced in Photoshop 3.0, this feature lets users group and display palettes in any combination. Provides easy access to tools, organizes on-screen space efficiently, and makes it easy to apply attributes quickly.

New standard Adobe menus and keyboard shortcuts

PageMaker now incorporates menus and shortcuts that will become universal in Adobe software, such as using the Tab key to hide or show all open palettes.

Enhanced Photoshop Effects plug-in

Applies special effects to images 10 to 20 times faster than before.

Ability to drag and drop PageMaker elements into Adobe software and other applications

Dragging and dropping is all that's required to move elements from a publication to Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and other Adobe software, as well as from other applications into PageMaker.

Valuable free software

PageMaker 6.5 ships with a free copy of Adobe Acrobat r Distiller r software and Acrobat Reader, Adobe Photoshop Limited Edition software (Windows only), Adobe Table 3.0 software, and, for the full retail version only, the Adobe Type On Call r CD-ROM with 220 free fonts, unlocked upon registration. All product versions also include a "Welcome to PageMaker" section providing a program preview, helpful multimedia tutorials, and informative product tips.

Dictionary software for 17 languages

Including English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Swedish.

On-line publishing

General new features

Hyperlinks palette

For authoring hyperlinks both within PageMaker publications and to any URL on the World Wide Web. A browser mode lets users test hyperlinks within a publication without leaving PageMaker, and it can automatically launch the user's Web browser to test URL links. Further, users can import hyperlinks from a single Web page at once.

Automatic reformatting of publications

Users can choose to let PageMaker automatically reformat text and graphics whenever they change page size or orientation, which is useful when repurposing documents from a tall to a wide orientation for on-line viewing. When reformatted, text blocks and graphics are resized to maintain a similar page geometry.

Automatic conversion of graphics to JPEG and GIF file formats

When pages are exported to HTML or PDF, PageMaker automatically converts TIFF images and EPS previews, PICT files, and Metafile graphics into JPEG or GIF, file formats in wide use on the World Wide Web.

Drag and drop of hyperlinks from Web browsers into PageMaker software

Speeds up the process of authoring hyperlinks, saving time and reducing the errors that can occur when typing URL addresses.

On-line publishing color library

Provides accurate, high-quality color consistency between platforms on the World Wide Web. The 216 colors included in this library are specially optimized for on-line distribution.

HTML features

Enhanced HTML Export plug-in

This feature makes it even easier to export content from PageMaker publications for distribution on the World Wide Web. The enhanced HTML Export plug-in now preserves hyperlinks and offers an improved user interface and faster performance.

Drag and drop of elements from PageMaker into Adobe PageMillT and Adobe SiteMillT software

Users can drag and drop elements from PageMaker directly into Adobe PageMill, a Web authoring tool that provides a visual environment for designing HTML pages, and Adobe SiteMill, an advanced Web authoring and site management tool.

Place HTML plug-in

Makes it easy to import HTML content from local drives or the World Wide Web directly into PageMaker, with formatting and hyperlinks preserved.

Mapping of HTML styles to PageMaker styles

Automatic style mapping streamlines the process of exporting PageMaker publications to HTML format and importing HTML content into PageMaker files. PageMaker converts the 16 predefined HTML styles into its own styles, and vice versa, so users do not need to manually redefine styles.

Adobe Acrobat features

Support for Adobe Acrobat 3.0 software

With support for Adobe Acrobat 3.0, which is now optimized for viewing, searching, and linking PDF files on the World Wide Web, fully formatted PageMaker pages can be delivered on the Internet. Optimization of PDF files for RGB color Ensures that the color in on-screen PDF files looks the same as it does in PageMaker.

Free Adobe Acrobat software

PageMaker provides everything users need to publish and distribute their publications as PDF files. Included in the package is a free copy of Acrobat Distiller software, which converts PageMaker publications to PDF files, and the freely distributable Acrobat Reader, which enables users to view PDF files from any personal computer.

Color publishing

Multi-channel DCS support to and from Adobe Photoshop software

Makes it possible to edit hi-fi color images in Photoshop using the Channel24 plug-in by VISU Technologies (sold separately). PageMaker is the only professional page layout program with built-in support for high-fidelity color, a six-color printing technology that makes final publications even more distinctive and vivid.

Support for the ICC color management profile standard

The ICC standard lets different color management systems use the same device profiles, making it possible to create consistent, accurate color on the desktop without the hassle and expense of rework.

Editing of hi-fi color values

PageMaker 6.5 provides end-users with more flexibility when producing hi-fi color publications by allowing editing of the cyan, magenta, yellow, orange, green, and black color values in Hexachrome color definitions. Display of color management status in the Edit Color dialog box Enables users to more readily identify whether an individual color has been color-managed.

ICC compliance for the Kodak Precision Color Management System

The Kodak Color Management System that's included with PageMaker now supports the ICC standard, so device profiles can easily be shared among different color management systems.

Compatibility with products from other vendors

Right-mouse button menus for Windows 95 and Windows NT

Instantly provides context-sensitive access to menu commands related to the selected item.

QuickTime import filter

Lets users place frames from QuickTime movies in PageMaker documents.

Other new import filters

For ClarisWorks 4.0 (Macintosh only) and Microsoft Works 4.0 (Macintosh only).

More extensible plug-in architecture

The underlying plug-in architecture has been greatly expanded to make PageMaker even more extensible. Now developers have access to objects, palettes, application events, plug-in private data, and communication between plug-ins. In the near future, additional third-party PageMaker plug-ins will be available.

Save for Service Provider plug-in

Consolidates everything needed to print a publication—including the PageMaker publication, the fonts used, and all linked graphics—into one location for easy hand-off to a service provider. Also generates reports that identify missing fonts, links, or graphics, and can even alert users to potential PostScript errors.

Enhanced scripting tools

Writing scripts in PageMaker 6.5 is even more powerful and versatile, because scripts can now include queries and commands.

Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 Workstation

System Requirements

- Intel486 processor
- Microsoft Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 Workstation operating system
- VGA display card
- CD-ROM drive (3.5" disk set available for purchase)

Total RAM installed

- 8 MB for Windows 95
- 16 MB for Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- Plus default virtual-memory settings
- 26 MB of free hard-disk space for minimum installation

Recommendations

- Pentium or greater processor
- High-resolution (24-bit or greater Super VGA) video display card
- 24 MB or more of RAM installed
- 67 MB of free hard-disk space for full installation
- PostScript-language printer
- Macintosh and Power Macintosh
- System Requirements
- 68030 or greater processor
- Apple System Software version 7.1 or later
- 9" (PowerBook r) or 13" or larger monitor (640 by 480 pixels)
- CD-ROM drive (3.5" disk set available for purchase)

RAM

- 6 MB of RAM available to PageMaker (Macintosh)*
- 9 MB of RAM available to PageMaker (Power Macintosh)*
- Additional RAM required to run Apple System Software
- 26 MB of free hard-disk space for minimum installation

* Based on PageMaker minimum installation

Recommendations

- PowerPC T processor
- Apple System Software version 7.5.3 or later
- High-resolution, 24-bit screen display
- 12 MB or more of RAM available to PageMaker
- 56 MB of free hard-disk space for full installation
- PostScript-language printer
- + PageMaker supports virtual memory.

Availability and pricing

In the United States and Canada, Adobe PageMaker 6.5 is expected to be available in the fourth quarter of 1996. The suggested retail price is \$895 (U.S.) for both versions. Registered users of any version of PageMaker can upgrade to version 6.5 for \$99 (U.S.). Customers in the United States or Canada who purchase PageMaker after August 9, 1996, are eligible to receive a free upgrade to version 6.5. For more information, customers can call Adobe at 800-42-ADOBE (23623). Localized language versions and support and upgrade policies for other countries will be announced later.

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month	month

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STR Publishing, Inc.

P.O. Box 6672

Jacksonville, Florida 32205

Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor
fsereno@streport.com

The Kids' Computing Corner
Computer news and software reviews
from a parent's point of view

In the News

Hi there gang! This week's news is that The Kids' Computing Corner is holding another drawing to give away a program. We have a copy of the Macintosh version of Titanic: An Adventure Out of Time that will be awarded to a lucky winner via a random drawing. Entries will be accepted through 12:01am Thursday, February 20 and the winner will be announced in the February 21 edition of the Silicon Times Report. To enter, all you need to do is send an e-mail to me with the word Titanic in either the message body or the subject header. My e-mail addresses are fsereno@streport.com and fsereno@matrix.uti.com. The winner will be notified by e-mail and the prize will be shipped as soon as I have the winner's address. The staff of STR Publishing and family members are not eligible for this contest.

Remember my promise to review The Magic School Bus: Dinosaurs and then compare the three recent dinosaur titles reviewed here? I'm hoping to get that done for next week. Each of the last two weeks has seen Illinois blanketed with six inches of snow or more in a single day. Digging out from under Old Man Winter's fury has left me a bit short of editorial time. I appreciate your patience!

Titanic: An Adventure Out of Time
Separate versions for Macintosh and Windows
msrp \$59.99
for ages 13 and up

GTE Entertainment
Carlsbad CA 92009
619-431-8801
<http://www.im.gte.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7.1
CPU: 486DX/66	CPU: 68040
HD Space: ?	HD Space: ?
Memory: 8 MB	Memory: 8 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors	Graphics:
256 colors, 13" monitor	
CD-ROM: Double-speed	CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card	
Other: mouse	

review by Jason Sereno (jason.sereno@mules-ear.com)

When we think of the R.M.S. Titanic, we think of tragedy and disaster. On April 15, 1912, the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the Atlantic. 1500 passengers died on the Titanic's maiden voyage. Some of these people were very wealthy and held great power. Deep sea technology has let us see the R.M.S. Titanic as it lies on the ocean floor, but no one has ever really experienced what it really felt like to travel in the huge vessel.

This is where GTE entertainment and Cyberflix come in. 85 years after the ship submerged in the ocean, they have created Titanic: Adventure Out of Time. This new interactive suspense-drama from GTE Entertainment and Cyberflix has been two years in the making. This program has over sixty-five digital sets and millions of computerized polygons.

As you start the game, you are a British secret agent in Liverpool during World War II. (Long after the Titanic has sunk in the North Atlantic.) You are sitting in your loft when you hear sirens and you are apparently killed in an explosion. You then awake and find that you are on the ship of the R.M.S. Titanic. You have been assigned to a mission that could change the course of the twentieth century.

All of the crew members believe that you have been feeling ill for the last weeks, because the ship had already started sail a while before you "became well again." The only person that truly knows your mission and who you are is your contact on the ship, she is very helpful throughout the entire game. You take your suitcase and your stopwatch to meet your contact and to start your mission. Throughout your journey you will find mystery, suspense drama, and uncover espionage. After the ship strikes the iceberg, you must race against the clock to find the remaining clues and solve the remaining puzzles.

With all the work put into this game, it is not surprising that the graphics in this game are extraordinary. There are paintings and stained glass windows that you can actually choose to look at more closely. The detail is amazing! When you choose to speak with people in the game, Titanic: Adventure out of Time uses many different pictures in a certain order rather than movie footage. This saves from taking a long time to load the movies, and still makes the motion look smooth and matches the words the person is saying very nicely. (editor's note: It reminded me of the old Clutch Cargo animated series that used static images but had moving lips on the characters for speaking scenes.)

There are over two dozen characters that you can interact with. These characters will remember their interactions with you, and can take away privileges that you once had at different stages of the game. To prevent yourself from being at a stage of the game where you cannot enter a desired place, which you need to finish the game, you should save often. There is a specific order that you must follow to finish the game correctly.

Characters are not the only type of interactive subjects in the game. There are many objects that you can interact within the game. If you choose to enter the gymnasium, you can take swings at a punching bag and watch many different exercise machines operate. After you have left the gymnasium, you can enter the Turkish or electric baths. They are both operable also.

The only drawback in the game is its gameplay. You are looking at the screen through first-person perspective, yet you are limited to the places you may go. You can only go certain directions from certain places, and there are many doors that are off limits to you also. This takes from the games fun factor. There is also no backward key, so you must do a one-hundred-eighty degree turn to travel backwards.

If you don't feel like being raced against the clock to finish the game,

Titanic: Adventure Out of Time offers a guided tour as well. This helps you get a feel for the game, if you would rather travel the ship before you start the game. The tour has a lot of information about the Titanic and is very educational. When you start the tour, there are three interactive tour guides that will help you discover the ship. Titanic will feature additional tour guides which can be downloaded from the game's Web Site at <http://www.im.gte.com> within the current months.

I feel that this game has the same problem as other current titles: A software company thinks that just because a game has great graphics, they don't have to worry about the gameplay. This is not true. Most serious gamers would take gameplay over graphics any day. This game is for children thirteen years and over, because it contains realistic violence. Even if you feel that your children are mature enough to play the game, you may find that many of the words and overall scenarios may be too complicated for a smaller child to comprehend. The guided tour, on the other hand, would be fine for smaller children.

Overall, the game would be worthwhile if you are interested in the great tragedy. At the same time, if people are criticizing O.J. Simpson for making millions of dollars off of a book deal, why should a company be making money as a result of a disaster that killed over 1500 people? The game in itself is very dark and downright eerie at times. But if you want a game with terrific graphics and a whole lot of plot, check out Titanic: Adventure Out of Time.

Fox Kids Network CD-ROM Comics
Hybrid-format for Windows and Macintosh
msrp \$9.99 each
kids of all ages

Inverse Ink
785A Castro Street
Mountain View CA 94041
415-938-1118
<http://www.inverse.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7.0
CPU: 486/33	CPU: Mac II or higher
HD Space: 2 MB	HD Space: 1 MB
Memory: 8 MB	Memory: 8 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors	Graphics: 256 colors, 13" monitor
CD-ROM: Double-speed	CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: MPC compliant sound card	
Other: mouse	

review by Frank Sereno (fsereno@streport.com)

Inverse Ink with the Fox Kids Network has introduced new CD-ROM comics based on Fox's animated children's series. Life with Louie, The Tick, Bobby's World and Eek!stravaganza are now available in first edition issues. These easy-to-use multimedia comics are aimed at children ages 6 to 12. Featuring colorful graphics, musical soundtracks and first-rate voice characterizations, the programs will delight many children.

The titles are:

The Tick: The Tick vs. The Uncommon Cold

Eek!Stravaganza: The EEX Files

Life with Louie: Lake Winnibigoshish

Bobby's World: One Clump or Two?

The CD-ROM comics are at least twenty pages long. Each page contains multiple frames with many of these featuring hot spot links to animations. Many frames are links to QuickTime movies culled directly from the television series. Each page also features original background music and many panels have their own musical accompaniment.

The target age group for these titles are children ages 6 to 12. My own sons, ages 6 and 8, were not very interested in these products, but I think it has more to do with their lack of familiarity with the characters. I do believe that many children will enjoy these titles but they lack replay value and they have limited educational value. If your children are fans of these particular shows, then they will probably enjoy these CD-ROM's greatly.

Personally, I really liked Eek!stravaganza. This particular episode was written by Savage Steve Holland who is also the executive producer of the series. He was the main creative force behind a couple of my favorite movies, "Better Off Dead" and "One Crazy Summer." I really enjoy his sense of humor and view of life. This episode of Eek!stravaganza features delightful parodies of Star Trek: The Original Series and The X-Files. The Tick is amusing too. It's another of those superhero in tights stories in which the main character has all the brawn and his sidekick has all the brains. It's formulaic, but the concept is done well in this particular episode. Bobby's World and Life with Louie teach little parables about life and how to treat people in the best way possible.

I think this medium holds a lot of potential, but to make it a more worthwhile experience would probably make producing it more expensive. I really believe they need an original story and characters that are designed for this type of presentation. I feel they need more hotspots for greater interactivity. More games and learning activities would create greater interest and increase the replay value of these products. Of these four titles, only two have playable games. In Bobby's World, you move Bobby around a maze and in Life with Louie you can do a little matching game. There should 3 or 4 games per title and they should offer user selectable difficulty levels.

To sum it up, these titles are very inexpensive and should be enjoyable for most kids. The titles don't have a great amount of replay value and not much in educational content. I think the format needs improvement with more interactive content but that will most likely increase consumer costs. Fans of these series would probably be ecstatic to receive these CD-ROM's. If money is tight, it's best to pass up these titles. If your expendable cash is readily available, these won't be bad additions to your children's software libraries but it just seems that this format hasn't reached its true potential yet.

about \$40
ages 6 and up

Sierra On-Line
Bellevue WA 98007
<http://www.sierra.com>

Program Requirements

OS:	Windows 3.1
CPU:	486
HD Space:	26 MB
Memory:	8 MB
Graphics:	640 x 480, 256 colors
CD-ROM:	Double-speed
Audio:	16-bit sound card
Optional:	joystick, printer

review by Jason Sereno (jason.sereno@mules-ear.com)

Well baseball fans, Sierra has recently released their Front Page Sports Baseball 96. This game has excellent animation. You can play on every major league field, and pick from all your favorite players. It also lets you manage a baseball team of your own and even design your own league with teams that you have selected. You can trade players, sign free agents, and even change the color of your favorite team's uniforms.

Front Page Sports Baseball uses a unique animation that has been trademarked by the Front Page Sports series. The realism of the player's motion and the smooth animation truly makes the game unique. The only part of the game that doesn't use this animation is when a player is in the batter's box. Then, the game uses the traditional type of view used by most baseball games for the PC and most gaming systems. Unlike most though, it shows the batter's batting average and how successful he has been at bat that day on a small window on the screen. It also shows an overhead view of the field that displays the locations of runners, the ball, and the defense. Even though at times the screen might be too crowded with windows, you can place the extra windows that display the batting order and things of that sort in the corners of your screen. Although, if you would prefer not to have these extra windows at all, you can close them and bring them up again when you need them.

Front Page Sports Baseball also has an instant replay option. If you hit a 450-foot home run or make a diving catch to win the game, you can save it to a disk and play it anytime you'd like. You can use one of many different camera angles during replays or even while playing the game.

This program also lets you make your own baseball association with the teams that only you choose. You can name yourself a manager of a team in an association also. While manager, you can trade players, assign free agents, move up AA and AAA players, and even change the color of your team's uniforms. While playing in the game, the managerial options are calling on players to pinch hit, relieving pitchers, or stealing bases.

The sound in the game simulates a real ballpark. You can even hear a heckler up in the stands as the batter steps up to the plate. The crowd rises to their feet as the home team scores and boos as the visiting team crosses the plate. You can even hear enthusiastic music as the bases are loaded. And of course, no game would be complete without the National

Anthem before the game and the playing of "Take me out to the Ball Game" in the seventh inning stretch.

Front Page Sports Baseball also has many different individual skill levels. You have the option to just manage a team. Although, if you choose to play in the game, you can swing or pitch to a certain area of the plate, or you may just pick the type of pitch and swing you will use. This dramatically increases the level of difficulty in the game. I prefer the type where you select the type of pitch and swing only, but you still have to swing on time. The baserunning and fielding also have different levels of difficulty you can choose, but I found that running the bases and fielding were not too difficult.

All in all, this is a very well balanced game. It has great graphics, but still has good playability, and you do need some intelligence to play if you decide to manage a team by yourself. This game can have up to 2 players at once, but can have up to 8 people managing 8 different teams throughout a season. This game should be a pleasant surprise to baseball fans of all ages. It is easy enough for kids who already understand the fundamentals of baseball and can be enjoyed by adults also. This game is very realistic, and doesn't have the violence that we have seen in this past season of baseball.

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 7.0.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at eleven points.

- ˆ• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- ˆ• No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmickery"
- ˆ• No underlining!
- ˆ• Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word format. Do NOT use the space bar.
- ˆ• No ASCII "ART"!!
- ˆ• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- ˆ• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- ˆ• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- ˆ• Please use a single font only in an article. TTF CG Times 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. Besides,

STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate networks as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

U.S. ROBOTICS ADDS MORE THAN 60 ISPs
BRINGING TO 100 THE NUMBER SUPPORTING x2 TECHNOLOGY
FOR 56 KBPS INTERNET AND REMOTE ACCESS

ISPs Represent More Than 16 Million Subscribers Who Will Have Access to Faster Downloads Over Standard Phone Lines

SKOKIE, Ill., -- January 6, 1997 -- U.S. Robotics (NASDAQ:USRX) today announced that it has added more than 60 Internet service providers, bringing to 100 the number now supporting U.S. Robotics' x2[tm] technology, which provides Internet and on-line connections over regular phone lines at up to 56 Kbps -- nearly twice as fast as those currently available.

The 100 ISPs supporting x2 include regional and national ISPs, plus the world's largest global ISPs and online services. U.S. Robotics has just launched its ISP Xtreme Advantage Program, which provides co-marketing opportunities for ISPs, and will continue expanding the list of ISPs supporting x2 as the program gets underway. The list of ISPs committed to supporting x2 to date represents a total of more than 16 million consumer and business subscribers.

"The support we're receiving for x2 technology is overwhelming, and we're pleased that regional and global ISPs and on-line service providers have lined up behind this breakthrough technology," said Ross Manire, senior vice president and general manager of U.S. Robotics' Network Systems Division. "People from all parts of the world will be using x2 technology to download graphics-intensive files and other data at nearly double the current maximum analog modem speed."

U.S. Robotics expects to be first to market with a 56 Kbps product, and anticipates that it will deliver the only complete, end-to-end solution for 56 Kbps with products for both ends of the connection available in the first quarter of 1997.

"Because U.S. Robotics controls its DSP technology, our ISP customers can upgrade their remote access servers in their points of presence via a software upgrade, enabling them to easily add x2 support," Manire said. "And, they can easily upgrade to other new technologies by adding new

software, protecting their technology investment and giving them the flexibility to easily add new capabilities."

The following is a list of the 100 Internet Service Providers that have announced their support for U.S. Robotics' x2 technology:

Australia
Microplex
Netexpress

Austria
Netway

Belgium
PPC SYS

Brazil
Integris/Algarnet
Itanet On-Line Ltda

Canada
Canada Internet Direct Inc.
Compu-SOLVE Technologies Inc.
HookUp
Hypertech North Inc.
iStar Internet
Managed Network Systems, Inc.
Ocean Enterprises Inc.

France
Grolier Interactive Europe

Germany
Bertelsmann ZI/MediaWays
metronet

Hong Kong
Hong Kong Star Internet
Hong Kong Telecom

Japan
ASCII
Business Network Telecom
Global Online
Japan Telecom
Tokyo Internet

Malaysia
MIMOS

Norway
Mimer AS
Telenor Online

Portugal
Automail/Transnet

Puerto Rico
Telecom Plaza Corp.

Taiwan
New Silkera Network
WowNet

United Kingdom
Cable Online
Technocom plc
UUNET Pipex

United States
Access Unlimited
ACD Internet Services
All-Net
AlphaTech On-line
America Online/ANS
American DataNet, Inc.
Atlantic Internet Services
B4~Futures
Binary Net
Carolina Chat
ColusaNET
Commonwealth Telephone Company
CompuServe
Cyber Max
CyberGate
CyberZone Communications
DeepWell Internet Services
Discovernet
Discovery Online
DSS Online
Dynasty Online, Inc.
Enternet Communications Inc.
Exec-PC
FlashNet
HKAN Online
I-Land Internet Services
IBM Global Network/Advantis
Indra's Net, Inc.
Inet Communications Company
International Services Network Corporation Internet Doorway, Inc.
Internet Nexus
Internet Tidal Wave
Internet Walkabout
interQuest.com
ioNET
Las Vegas Digital Internet
MCI
Micronet Communication
Mindspring
Mother.com, Inc.
Netcom
Netplex
NetWalk
North American Internet
Novia Internetworking
PalmNet On-line
PE.net
Prodigy
San Marcos Internet, Inc.
SNET

Softcom
Software Solutions Ltd.
Southern Maryland Internet, Inc.
Spacestar Communications
TDS TELECOM
Texas Metronet Inc.
Tidal Wave Communications Inc.
TOAST.Net
TriNet Communications Inc.
US Internet Corp.
U S West
Web America Networks
West Coast Online
Wharton County Network
World Trade Network Inc.
WWW Internet Solutions, Inc.

U.S. Robotics is one of the world's leading suppliers of products and systems that provide access to information. The company designs, manufactures, markets and supports remote access servers, LAN switching equipment, desktop/mobile client products and modems, telephony products and handheld organizers. U.S. Robotics products connect computers and other equipment over analog, digital and switched cellular networks, enabling users to gain access to, manage and share data, fax and voice information. Its customers include Internet service providers, regional Bell operating companies, inter-exchange carriers and a wide range of other large and small businesses, institutions and individuals. The company's fiscal 1996 sales were \$1.97 billion.

Additional input from U.S. Robotics' x2 supporters

"If an Internet service provider wants to stay ahead of the game, it needs to stay ahead of technology! U.S. Robotics' x2 technology is the game that needs to be played right now."

--Steve Moody, Owner AlphaTech On-line, Hendersonville, North Carolina

"In this business, you cannot afford to be behind the times. With USR's new x2 technology, we can stay on pace with our customers and ahead of the competition."

--Robert McElwee, President Carolina Chat, Inc., Ladson, South Carolina

"Today, ISPs are popping up everywhere. In order to succeed in this highly competitive business, you must be reliable and state of the art. x2 is both, and gives my company a leading edge."

--Bill Devine, Owner HKAN Online, Alpharetta, Georgia "With U.S. Robotics' Total Control Enterprise Network Hubs installed, our performance and reliability have put us over the top compared to our competition."

--Marshall Morgan, President Internet Doorway, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi "x2 gives our customers something the competition can't offer: high speed analog access. Now."

--Dougal Campbell, Systems Manager interQuest.com Online Services, Huntsville, Alabama "This is incredible. x2 will now afford average computer users the ability to surf the Net or listen to their favorite music over the Internet at near ISDN speed without increased cost. Thanks to U.S. Robotics, Tidal Wave Communications becomes a premier Internet Service Provider."

--Brian Bird, President & C.E.O. Tidal Wave Communications, Inc., Chantilly, Virginia

"Knowing U.S. Robotics' reputation in the online industry, I'm certain that x2 will be a quantum leap in modem technology. My users are already asking how to upgrade. This is certain to be a big hit!"

--Rick Kunze, General Manager
ColusaNET, Williams, California

"U.S. Robotics has always been a leading player in the modem industry, from superior stand-alone modems for end users to excellent access concentrators for the Internet Service Providers themselves. The company has continued its advances in modem technology with this latest x2 release."

--Ian Briggs, President
DeepWell Internet Services, Rancho Cordova, California

"With faster download speeds, x2 technology crushes the existing 33.6 Kbps ceiling! Thanks, U.S. Robotics."

--Philip D. Kippen, Director of Operations Marketing Enternet Communications Inc., Van Nuys, California "As an Internet service provider, we need to constantly respond to our customers' demands for faster Internet access. Our client base eagerly adopted U.S. Robotics' 33.6 Kbps standard as soon as it became available, and are already calling us about x2. We're thrilled that we're one of the few ISPs positioned to offer x2 in Colorado, where ISDN access is difficult and time-consuming to obtain. Best of all, it's a simple and affordable upgrade, both for us and for our customers."

--Shelli Meyers, President
Indra's Net, Inc., Boulder, Colorado

"We know we've hit the jackpot with U.S. Robotics. Top of the line products and fantastic customer support give us a winning hand!"

--Lori Drake, President
Las Vegas Digital Internet, Las Vegas, Nevada

"We are pleased to be a part of U.S. Robotics' x2 technology. Our customers demand the best, and that's what we intend to provide them with this new technology."

--Mike Quinn, General Manager and Editor PE.net, Riverside, California

"With our installed base of Total Control products, Commonwealth Telephone Company strongly endorses x2 technology for our epix Internet Services. Because of the ease with which we and our customers will be able to upgrade to x2, we will aggressively promote and deploy the technology. We believe the 56 Kbps access rate will provide a significant competitive advantage and increased functionality as Internet content becomes increasingly complex. For our broad base of dial-up users, x2 technology will provide affordable and practical high speed access for the foreseeable future."

--Joe Gaydos, Manager-Technical Staff Commonwealth Telephone Company,
Dallas, Pennsylvania

"We are thrilled to be one of the first providers of x2 technology in northwest Ohio."

--Kevin David, President End User Computing (parent company of TOAST.Net), Toledo, Ohio "We at Internet Tidal Wave are proud of our reputation for reliability and customer satisfaction. We attribute much of that to the U.S. Robotics products we use for our network. With the advent of this new throughput capacity, U.S. Robotics once again proves why it's the brand of choice for Internet Tidal Wave as well as ISPs around the world."

--Steve Heflin, President
Internet Tidal Wave, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

"NetWalk is confident that adopting U.S. Robotics' new x2 technology will help us maintain our cutting-edge advantage over our competitors and

provide superior service levels to our customers. We've used USR equipment from day one, and recently converted our stand-alone modems to the Total Control platform. The implementation of x2 technology is simply the next logical step in the evolutionary process."

--Todd Price, Vice President
NetWalk, Columbus, Ohio

"We've been using U.S. Robotics products exclusively ever since we started. I can't say enough about the reliability and the performance of their products. x2 technology is just another example in their long history of innovation and excellence."

--Fred Brechbiel, President Southern Maryland Internet, Dunkirk, Maryland
"We're very excited about the prospects for 56 Kbps data delivery to our subscribers. This x2 technology will enable our clients to more effectively exploit the vast potential of the Internet. As a USR client, Dynasty Online welcomes the opportunity to participate in this exciting technology."

--Jeff Albright, President
Dynasty Online, Inc., Evansville, Indiana

"We are looking forward to utilizing this new technology to expand our service offerings to our customer base at an affordable rate."

--Curt Shambeau, Vice President
Exec-PC, Inc., New Berlin, Wisconsin

"I have customers requesting ISDN, but the local telephone company does not provide that service. x2 technology fills this void as well as giving us a technical advantage above the competition."

--Wilson Rook, Webmaster Internet Walkabout, New Era, Michigan

"It's nice to see U.S. Robotics leading the field in 56 Kbps technology. x2 should provide a bigger bang for our customers' bucks!"

--Steven L. Rodgers, President
TriNet Communications, Inc., Whitestown, Indiana

"Signing up for U.S. Robotics' ISP Xtreme Advantage Program keeps Binary Net the leader in the Lincoln, Nebraska, area in providing cutting-edge technology to Internet service users. Our customers keep current with industry trends and expect the technology to be available to them. Some of our customers' competitive advantages depend on connection speed and reliability of connection. Binary Net pledges to meet customers' needs. By introducing support for x2 technology, we 'kill two rabbits with one shot': keep existing users satisfied and gain a competitive advantage in a rapidly expanding market. Isn't that Xtremely Advantageous!?"

--Betty Hutchinson, Vice President
Binary Net, Lincoln, Nebraska

"x2 will provide higher performance for Internet and network access without resorting to more technical and expensive means. The fact that it is compatible with our systems preserves our investment in U.S. Robotics modem technology and allows us to provide better service without additional expenditures. All POPs will be upgraded remotely."

--Leonard Conn, President & C.E.O. ioNET, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma "Web America Networks will be upgrading 100 percent of its modems to x2 technology. We're excited about being able to upgrade our Total Control equipment to offer 56 Kbps throughput to our customers. The x2 technology will allow our customers to access the Internet with higher throughput speeds close to that of ISDN without the added expense associated with that technology."

--Philip Midkiff, President

Web America Networks, Inc., Dallas, Texas

"Wt.net will promote x2 technology through a special section on our Web pages, and we'll upgrade our network to handle x2 technology."

--Jack Jui, President

World Trade Network Inc., Houston, Texas

"Canada Internet Direct and U.S. Robotics share a common interest in providing consumers with the newest available technologies. Speed is in demand, and x2 is one product that will enhance our network to deliver increased download speeds and a more enjoyable Internet experience for our customers."

--Shawn Chute, President

Canada Internet Direct Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada

"ISPs and industry analysts are looking at x2 and noting the advantages of this increased speed without the high costs associated with ISDN. For our customers, x2 is even more attractive, since ISDN lines are not available to more than 98 percent of them, while x2 uses their existing telephone lines. In addition to using 100 percent of U.S. Robotics' Total Control products in our POPs, our retail store stocks only U.S. Robotics modems, which means that a majority of our customers will be rewarded with an inexpensive upgrade to x2."

--Markus Baumann, Manager-Internet Division

Compu-SOLVE Technologies Inc., Midland, Ontario, Canada

"Marina Internet Services, located in a thriving Acadian community in Baie Sainte Marie, Nova Scotia, started providing Internet connections in October 1995 using USR modems, and they've served us well. When x2 technology was announced, my customers were excited at the possibility of surfing at higher speeds. Cable modems won't be around for a while, so Marina Internet Services is pleased to be associated with U.S. Robotics in bringing x2 to this area."

--Micael Belliveau, President Ocean Enterprises Inc. (Marina Internet Services), Nova Scotia, Canada "With the addition of x2 56 Kbps capability, our U.S. Robotics central site system is now ideal for serving our rapidly growing corporate Internet user base. Users now demand higher modem speeds and ISDN connections."

--R. David Guthrie, Chairman

Technocom plc, Slough, United Kingdom

Editor's Note: A list of ISPs supporting x2 may be found at <http://x2.usr.com/leaders/index.html>; this list will be updated daily as ISPs continue to join U.S. Robotics' Xtreme Advantage Program.

U.S. ROBOTICS SYSOP SUPPORT PROGRAM

PRODUCT

PRICE

Prices subject to change without notice. The Courier I-Modem is now available on the sysop program! The I-Modem connects directly to a BRI ISDN line using its integrated NT-1. The I-Modem will connect to other ISDN devices at speeds up to 128k, and to analog modems at speeds up to 33.6k.

It supports all the analog features of the Courier V.Everything, including V.34/V.FC/Fax. An analog device port is included, which can be used for dialing out with an analog telephone or modem.

Courier I-Modem ISDN/V.34 Model 1 External
\$ 349
Courier I-Modem ISDN/V.34 Model 1 Internal (ISA)
\$ 299
Courier I-Modem ISDN/V.34 Model 1 for Macintosh
\$ 349
Courier V.Everything w/V.34 & FAX External
\$ 199
Courier V.Everything w/V.34 & FAX Internal
\$ 175
Courier V.Everything w/V.34 & FAX for Macintosh
\$ 199
Sportster Voice w/V.34 & FAX External
\$ 140
Sportster Voice w/V.34 & FAX Internal
\$ 120
Sportster Voice w/V.34 & FAX for Macintosh
\$ 140
Sportster 33.6k w/V.34 & FAX External
\$ 120
Sportster 33.6k w/V.34 & FAX Internal
\$ 107
Sportster 33.6k w/V.34 & FAX for Macintosh
\$ 120
Sportster Winmodem 33.6k w/ V.34 & FAX Internal
\$ 80

Note: The Winmodem REQUIRES a Windows-based BBS system. It will operate with Windows 95, Windows for Workgroups 3.x, and Windows 3.x based software.

* European Sysops must now order via our office in France.
The BBS number is +33 20 87 62 24, voice number is +33 20 87 04 00. Be sure to read their EURODEAL rules as they differ from USR/USA.

***For detailed information and technical specifications on the above products, call the U.S. Robotics Technical Support Department at 800-550-7800. For more information on the sysop program select option #2. For technical support on Courier V.Everything products select option #4, then option #1. For technical support on Courier I-Modem products select option #4, then option #2. International callers can call 1-847- 982-5010. You can also FAX at 847-676-7314 or try our Fax on Demand at 800-762-6163 or 847-676-8536. In Europe call +33 20 87 04 00 or FAX +33 20 87 04 04.

U.S. ROBOTICS SYSOP SUPPORT PROGRAM

General:

This section describes the rules of the U.S. Robotics SYSOP Program. U.S. Robotics reserves the right to modify or change these rules at any time.

Scope:

The U.S. Robotics SYSOP Program permits QUALIFIED SYSOPs to purchase current U.S. Robotics products at a reduced price. The purpose of this

program is to continue the close relationship established many years ago between U.S. Robotics and the Sysop community. Participants should recognize that our ability to continue the program is dependent upon the strong position U.S. Robotics enjoys in the reseller channel, with the distributors and dealers, VARs, etc. that continue to buy and resell our products to home and business users around the world. It is our intent to maintain the integrity of our channel relationships by closely scrutinizing each SYSOP sale to ensure that we only sell products to qualified SYSOPs.

Qualifications:

1. This program is designed for traditional bulletin board systems that do not offer internet access. Internet service providers may take advantage of other programs offered by U.S. Robotics by calling 1-800-USR- CORP. International callers may call 1-847-982-5010.
2. Traditional bulletin board systems that also offer premium internet services may qualify for this program, but must be limited to 10 modems per year. The primary purpose of the bulletin board system must be the system's non-internet features. Premium internet services include the World Wide Web, Telnet, FTP, IRC, and SLIP/PPP access.
3. The SYSOP states that he/she is NOT in the business of reselling computer products and/or related peripherals, including modems. Qualified resellers may take advantage of other programs offered by U.S. Robotics by calling (800) 342-5877 and asking for the dealer sales representative for your area. International callers may call 1-847-982-5010.
4. The SYSOP has been operating the bulletin board system for at least six (6) months and that this activity can be verified by dialing into the bulletin board system. Typically user logs, activity logs, and local message bases are a good source for verifying activity.

*** The exception to this rule is as follows:

If you are a registered owner of any of the following software packages US Robotics automatically waives the 6 month verification portion of the qualifications. US Robotics is proud to have entered into this agreement with:

The participating vendors are:

PC Board(Clark Development)	(800)356-1686 Voice Dos
	(801)261-8976 BBS

Wildcat!(Mustang Software Inc.)	(800)999-9619 Voice Dos
	(805)873-2400 BBS

TBBS(eSOFT)	(303)699-6565 Voice Dos
	(303)699-8222 BBS
	(303)699-6872 FAX

Power Board(NUIQ Software Inc.)	(914)833-3479 Voice Dos
	(914)833-1479 BBS
	(914)834-7830 BBS
	(914)833-3623 FAX

Searchlight	(800)988-LITE Voice Dos
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	(216)631-9290 BBS
Front Door(Absolute Solutions)	(207)941-1110 Voice Dos (207)990-3511 BBS
RemoteAccess(Wantree Development)	(913)262-4638 Voice Dos (913)262-7000 BBS
The Major BBS (Galaticomm, Inc.) Unix	(800)328-1128 Voice Dos or (954)583-7808 BBS
First Class (SoftArc) Mail)	(905)415-7000 Voice Mac(E- (905)415-7070
TeleFinder (Spider Island)	(714)453-8095 Voice Mac (714)453-8190 BBS
DLG (TelePro Technologies)	(403)341-7826 Voice Amiga (403)347-3262 BBS
Celerity/Alacrity (Lexicon Computing)	(310)693-9405 BBS Dos
TEAMate (MMB Development Corp)	(310)318-1322 Voice Unix (310)318-5302 BBS
Vision-X (Eid Youssef)	(613)728-4861 Voice Dos (613)728-5787 BBS (613)728-7959 BBS
Hermes II (Computer Classifieds)	(206)643-2316 Voice Mac (206)643-2874 BBS
NovaLink Professional(ResNova Software)	(714)379-9000 Voice Mac (714)379-9004 BBS
MediaHost for Windows (MediaHouse Software Inc.)	(819)682-9737 Voice Windows (819)682-3330 BBS (819)685-0994 FAX
Xenolink(Xenomiga Technology)	(416)927-7844 Voice Amiga (416)929-2392 FAX
TSX BBS (S&H Computer Systems Inc.)	(615)327-3670 Voice Dos (615)321-5929 FAX (615)320-1820 BBS
AdeptXBBS (AdeptSoft)	(407)883-0999 Voice OS/2 (407)483-2480 FAX (407)477-6310 BBS sales@adeptsoft.com

5. The SYSOP understands that the number of modems that may be obtained under this program is limited to the number of working, VERIFIABLE data lines. Data lines MUST be dedicated for modem use only and MUST be available 24 hours a day for modem access. Modems purchased under this program MUST be used on one of the stated lines.

6. The SYSOP agrees to post an appropriate logon notice, visible to users of the bulletin board, which states that said bulletin board uses and supports U.S. Robotics brand products.

7. The SYSOP agrees that he/she intends to operate the bulletin board, for which these products are purchased, for at least six (6) months post purchase. The U.S. Robotics logon must remain in effect for six (6) months to allow verification that the bulletin board is in place and that the U.S. Robotics promotional message is being displayed.

8. The SYSOP agrees that, in order to avoid conflict with the U.S. Robotics reseller channel, modems purchased under this program cannot be re-sold without the expressed written consent of U.S. Robotics. Violation of this policy will result in the SYSOP's being ineligible for future participation in the U.S. Robotics SYSOP program. In addition, any warranties on modems re-sold without U.S. Robotics authorization will be null and void.

9. The SYSOP understands that initialization of the verification process may take from one (1) to fifteen (15) days depending on the number of orders being processed by the SYSOP Support Department, and difficulty in verifying your bulletin board. Shipment of product will take from six (6) to eight (8) weeks. If product is not available, longer delays may apply.

U.S. Robotics will ship product(s) to QUALIFIED SYSOPs as soon as possible after:

A. The SYSOP completes the order form and questionnaire found on the U.S. Robotics BBS via the SYSOP command at the main menu. These must be filled-out on-line as no mail-in orders will be accepted. Prepaid orders will NOT be processed until payment has been received by U.S. Robotics. After placing an order on the board, a SYSOP wishing to prepay his/her order should send a money order or cashier's check for U.S. funds to:

U.S. Robotics
SYSOP Support Program
7770 N. Frontage Rd.
Skokie, IL 60077

It is imperative that the SYSOP name, voice phone number and BBS phone number be indicated for identification purposes. A personal or company check is acceptable, but the check must be certified. NO CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS WILL BE DEPOSITED BY U.S. ROBOTICS UNTIL THE SYSOP's BBS HAS BEEN VERIFIED.

Wire transfers MUST be pre-approved by the
U.S. Robotics Sysop Department.

U.S. Robotics will now accept credit card orders.
(Visa or Mastercard only) The ordering door will take
all the credit card information online. Charges will
not be applied to the account until the BBS has been
verified by a SYSOP administrator.

• The SYSOP understands that once an order is placed, it cannot be changed. If you are uncertain as to the product you want to purchase, you may consult the Information & Text Files file area of this bulletin board for product information. Or, you may call the U.S. Robotics

Technical Support Department at (800) 550-7800 or call our Fax on Demand system at 800-762-6163 or 847-676-8536.

- Your board will be verified by a U.S. Robotics Online Support Analyst. We MUST be able to connect with your bulletin board to verify board status. In the event that we are uncertain of your board status, you will be notified by a U.S. Robotics representative. We will advise you as best we can as to what you need to provide in order to have your board verified (appropriate logon, copy of phone bill, software registration, etc.). In no case will we verify a board until we are certain that it meets the requirements of the program.
- U.S. Robotics will not accept voice phone-in orders.
- U. S. Robotics reserves the right to modify, change or cancel this program at any time.
- If you have any questions regarding this program, please call (800) 550-7800 for clarification.

THANK YOU

ADDENDUM

We realize that all Bulletin Boards are not the same and we are not always able to ascertain their validity during our normal verification process. In order not to exclude those Bulletin Boards from our program, we may request additional information such as copies of telephone bills, proof of software purchase and/or registration and network and association membership. This information will only be requested by U.S. Robotics in rare cases and can not be used solely as a means of qualification.

Before placing an order, please take steps to ensure the process goes as easily as possible.

1. Create a login for U.S. Robotics
2. Ensure no questionnaires or voting is necessary
3. If your logon requires information other than password be sure to include this information on the order.
4. Once this is established logon under the U.S. Robotics ID and look for verifiable proof of six months activity. If you can't find it, odds are we won't be able to either.

US Robotics CAN NOT download special software to verify your BBS.

We support the basic communication platforms.

U.S. Robotics is determined to provide a SYSOP Program which is fair and equitable to everyone. Any requests made of SYSOPs in order to verify Bulletin Boards are made in order to ensure that the program serves the entire SYSOP community and protect the USR distribution channel as well.

We will make every effort to process each and every order in a professional and courteous manner. Please help us to provide the type of service you want and deserve by filling-out the order form as completely and accurately as possible and responding to our requests for additional information in a prompt manner.

THANK YOU

Contact Points for U.S. Robotics

BBS - 847-982-5092 (Enter messages to "SYSOP SUPPORT" for ??s
about this program)FAX - 847-676-7314Fax on Demand - 800-762-
6163 or 847-676-8536Compuserve - GO USROBOTICS 76711,707America
Online - Keyword USROBOTICS
FIDO - 1:115/500
RIME - USRUSA #174
PRIME - 98:212/1
Internet - support@usr.com - http://www.usr.com - ftp.usr.com
Voice Sysop Support
- 800-550-7800 1-847-982-5010 Sales & Literature - 800-
DIAL-USR 1-847-982-501012/30/96U.S. Robotics Inc.

Gaming Hotwire STR Feature - The World of Contemporary Gaming

Featuring the Action from;

"Video Gaming Central" on CompuServe

N64 Support Increases STR Infofile

Press Release

Paradigm Partners with Video System

Video System Selects Paradigm Entertainment to Produce Three Games for the Nintendo 64 Home Video Game System.Dallas -- January 13, 1997 -- Paradigm Simulation, Inc., a world leader in visual and audio simulation, virtual reality and entertainment applications and products, today announced its entertainment division, Paradigm Entertainment, will develop three video games for Japan-based Video System. Video System will direct and produce the game, utilizing the 3D technology of Paradigm Entertainment. The games will run on the Nintendo 64 home video game system. Video System has targeted the first game to be released in Japan in Summer 1997, with the additional two games planned for a late 1997 release.

The initial game will be Sonic Wings Assault, a Nintendo 64 follow-up to the successful Sonic Wings series. With its single- and two-player modes, the game combines the excitement of air-combat simulation and the fun of "shoot-em up" action games. Players will have a choice from friendly aircraft and pilot combinations, each with their own distinctive flying characteristics, and will be pitted against a variety of enemy forces. Available weapons will include realistic systems plus a number of unique,

futuristic choices.

"Paradigm Entertainment is recognized worldwide for its amazing graphics and creative content. During the past few years, the video game market has taken a drastic turn from traditional 2D to realistic 3D game technology, coupled with the introduction of the Nintendo 64 game console. To keep up with this change, Video System has been searching for a good partner who can provide us with the newest and proven 3D technology for producing the next generation of video games. Our past experience and knowledge in the industry will surely be the perfect match to Paradigm Entertainment's graphics technology and tools," said Koji Furukawa, president of Video System. "We look forward to showing the world some extraordinary games this year."

"From the first Sonic Wings (Aero Fighters in the U.S.) sold in 1992, I have always envisioned a 3D version that would add tremendous visual impact and excitement to the game. We can't wait to show the game to all the Aero Fighters fans throughout the world!," added Mitsuo Kimura, president of McO'River Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Video System. Paradigm Entertainment, which developed the internationally acclaimed Pilot Wings 64 for Nintendo of America, is using its UltraVision tool to develop the games. UltraVision consists of the run-time libraries and rendering engine, plus a suite of off-line tools to pull all game elements together. The purpose of the tool is to provide a highly productive software environment that allows developers to focus on the elements of game play and application development, rather than of the details of hardware implementation.

"UltraVision allows us to rapidly prototype and develop game content while maintaining a focus on quality," said Dave Gatchel, executive vice president of Paradigm Entertainment.

Founded in 1990, Dallas-based Paradigm Simulation, Inc. is the world leader in visual and audio simulation and virtual reality products for use on Silicon Graphics computers. Paradigm's entertainment division is an emerging leader in content creation and authoring tools for the entertainment and gaming industry.

Video System, based in Kyoto, Japan, was founded by Koji Furukawa in 1984. It is a well-known company in Japan because of a series of successful games such as Sonic Wings (Aero Fighters), F-1 Grand Prix and Mahjong games, both for the arcade and consumer markets.

Classics & Entertainment Section
Editor Dana P. Jacobson
dpj@streport.com

From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

I have a PC at work and I may get about 10-15 minutes a day, if I'm lucky, to play around on the Internet just to check out a few sites. It's interesting but I know there's a TON of stuff out there that I just don't have time at work to check out.

As I mentioned last week, I finally managed to get an Atari web browser to work - STiK and CAB. It works very well (and switching my Falcon's resolution to 256 colors increased the quality of the graphics tremendously!). I've been checking out more and more sites and getting my feet even wetter - it's been fun. I still recommend it highly.

Now my next project is to get the other modules to work, like AntMail, Newsie, FTP, and others. These will provide me with even more tools to get around the Internet and many of the features that the other platforms currently have. It's exciting, especially on Atari computers, to find another new use for these "antiques"! <grin>

I've also been playing around with a relatively new Web page/HTML creator, Home Page Penguin. It's pretty basic and nothing fancy, but I was successful in creating a web page (basically for my wife's Star Trek "Imzadi" fanclub and newszines as well as her home Star Trek collectibles venture). The page is really basic at the moment, but I hope to clean it up and add some things related to my BBS and Atari user group. If you feel like dropping by, the URL is "<http://www.people.delphi.com/dpj>".

I also found another creator earlier this week, Web Spinner, but I haven't looked at it - I'll keep you updated on both of these Atari HTML programs as I delve into them deeper in the days to come. I also have another (new) e-mail address via STReport's site, at "dpj@streport.com" - another address to remember!

Before I forget, I just want to send out my best wishes for a speedy recovery to Lloyd Pulley, our illustrious PC Public Domain software "guru". Lloyd recently underwent heart surgery and all of us here wish him well!

Until next time...

Newsbytes NewsReel - 12 Years Ago This Week

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, U.S.A., 1997 JAN 10 (Newsbytes) -- By Nick Gorski.

Twelve years ago, January 8, 1985, these Newsbytes stories were filed. A Look Back At CES, Apple Update, and Komputers To The Kremlin. These stories were taken from the extensive archives at the Newsbytes Website at <http://www.newsbytes.com>

A Look Back To CES

Scheduled for introduction are three new computers from Atari. Early reports say the Atari "Jackintosh," a 32-bit Macintosh-like machine, will NOT be introduced. In fact, we'll have to wait until at least April, either the Chicago CES or the West German Hanover Fair for that. InfoWorld suggests a 16-bit system with either 128 or 192K will be unveiled. And, rumors still persist that Mindset and Atari are STILL TALKING regarding a collaboration on a new machine or the old Mindset. For sure, Fractalus" and "Ballblazer" games will soon become commercially available for Atari owners.

It's no secret that a flurry of MSX products will be on display from Japanese manufacturers, many of them hosted by Microsoft, which invented the MSX technology. InfoCorp, a Cupertino, Ca. market research firm, says

MSX machines accounted for 40 percent of all home computer sales in Japan last year, mainly because they are compatible with a variety of other Japanese electronics products. Whether they will take the U.S. by storm is another matter. Their biggest selling point may simply be their price. MSX computers generally run between \$300 and \$900 dollars.

Apple Update

John Scully has just been named "Adman of the Year" by Advertising Age. He won the distinction by rewriting "the marketing ground rules for the entire industry." He not only raised the cost of advertising, spending \$100 million last year, but staged quite a few promotional "events," not the least of which was the "1984" commercial last year. Speaking of spending, Apple assistant to the chairman Robin Reed was quoted by the Wall Street Journal, in reference to Apple's \$110,000 Christmas party, "Just say we have a little music and some hors d'oeuvres. We have an image to worry about. The stockholders won't like this at all." (Thanks to "Softletter" for that item.) And finally, California Technology Stock Letter reports Apple sold 250,000 Macintoshes last year, "making it the most successful first-year personal computer ever."

Komputers To The Kremlin

Apple II, Kaypro and Radio Shack Model 100 computers will now be exported to the Soviet Union, based on new rules established by the Department of Commerce. The feds say that PC/XT and Apple Macintoshes and a variety of other, more powerful micros, will remain banned from exportation. The Commerce Department has decided that the less powerful machines pose no military threat if they "fall into the hands of Soviet leadership." The question is, does the Soviet Union want them? A report from the New York Times' Moscow bureau last week indicated that the Soviets are extremely paranoid of hackers and are doing everything they can to keep micros out of the hands of the populace.

Gaming Section

Super Bowl - Game Console Style!
PlayStation, N64, and Saturn News!
NHL '97! NFL '97! WCW!
And more...

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

There's plenty of game and industry news this week that gives me the inclination to be very brief this week. No "new" Jaguar news, but everything is still "on target" for the next releases. The winter sports season is in full throttle, and the games are out there as well. NHL '97 and NFL '97, and others. The Super Bowl console "wars" are also upon us (Go Patriots!!). Otherwise, let me shut up and let you get on with this week's issue! I'll be more vocal next week, news-withstanding.

Until next time...

GTE: GTE Interactive Media to Cease Operations in March

JAN 10, 1997, M2 Communications - GTE Interactive Media will cease operations as of March 14, 1997. Founded in 1990, GTE Interactive Media has been an innovative interactive software publisher that has developed or distributed products for a variety of technology platforms, including CD-ROM, Sega and Nintendo.

"GTE has made a strategic decision that it does not need to be a primary participant in the creation and management of content," said Richard Scott, vice president and general manager-New Ventures for GTE. "At its inception, GTE Interactive Media was viewed as a complementary adjunct to GTE's plans to develop broadband video services networks.

"Today, with the exponential growth of the Internet and the acceleration of players in the entertainment marketplace, GTE believes the need to be a primary source of content to feed its own networks has diminished. There are numerous sources available," Scott said.

"This move allows us to increase our focus on our core tele-communications business," Scott said. "We attempted to find a solution that did not involve a shutdown," Scott said, "but we talked with several potential buyers without reaching a satisfactory agreement."

GTE Interactive Media's 85 employees will continue on the payroll until March 14, 1997, but will be given the opportunity to look for other employment in the interim. Where possible, some of them will be placed in other parts of the GTE organization. A small group of employees will be retained to assist in the shutdown activities through June 30, at which time the company will close its office in Carlsbad, Calif.

With revenues of \$20 billion in 1995, GTE is one of the largest publicly held telecommunications companies in the world. GTE is also the largest US-based local telephone company and a leading cellular-service provider -- with wireline and wireless operations that form a market area encompassing about a third of the nation's population. Additional information about GTE can be found on the INTERNET at <http://www.gte.com>

Sega Sells 7 Million Saturn Consoles Worldwide

OSAKA, JAPAN, 1997 JAN 14 (Newsbytes) -- By Martyn Williams. Sega of America, the North American unit of Osaka-based Sega Enterprises Ltd. [TOKYO:7964], says worldwide sales of its Saturn games system have topped seven million. In North America, sales passed projections to total 1.2 million in 1996.

Combined with the installed base of 400,000 Saturn systems, there are now 1.6 million consoles in North American homes. Analysis of the sales data outlined in the press release from the company shows just how important promotions and the Christmas sales period is to the company in North America.

It said a special "three pack" promotion helped push December sales to 500,000 units, almost half the annual sales. That month saw a 300 percent increase on the previous month, which puts November sales at 125,000 units. With Sega's reported 1.2 million systems sold in the year, more than half were sold in the last two months of the year.

This leaves average monthly sales for the rest of the year at just 57,500 consoles. For the remaining three months of fiscal 1996, which ends on March 31, the company said it expects to sell 100,000 units. This works out to an even lower average monthly sale of 33,333 units.

In the "three pack" promotion mentioned, consumers received three free arcade translation games -- "Virtual Fighter 2," "Daytona USA," and "Virtual Cop" -- with the purchase of a Sega Saturn. The promotion also included coupons for discounts off two future games.

The company said software sales of Saturn games totaled 5.5 million in 1996. Of those, 2.7 million were made by the company with the remainder from other suppliers. Popular games during the holidays were "Sonic 3D Blast" and "Nights," said the company.

Within the home video games industry, the company is facing strong competition from Sony's PlayStation and the Nintendo 64, a fight which has pushed it into third place currently. In addition, the home video games market in general is fighting a battle for users as leisure time activities increasingly grow with the popularity of personal computers, the Internet, and more entertainment, such as multichannel digital satellite broadcasting.

T-HQ Brings World Championship Wrestling to PlayStation

CALABASAS, CALIF. (Jan. 13) BUSINESS WIRE --Jan. 13, 1997--T-HQ Inc. (NASDAQ:TOYH) Monday announced that it will publish the company's first title under its World Championship Wrestling license, "WCW vs. the World," pursuant to an agreement with game developer Asmik of Japan. "WCW vs. the World" is a true 3-D wrestling game for the Sony PlayStation and T-HQ expects to ship the title in the United States in March of 1997.

The game, which was originally released in Japan for the Sony PlayStation under the name "Virtual Pro Wrestling," brings one of Turner Broadcasting System's premier sports entertainment franchises, World Championship Wrestling (WCW), to the 32-bit Sony game platform.

"WCW vs. the World," based on Nielsen's top syndicated weekly programming and featuring World Championship Wrestling and its superstars, will incorporate the signature moves of world-renowned WCW wrestlers including Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair and Lex Luger.

World Championship Wrestling (WCW), "Where the Big Boys Play," is a subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting System Inc., which produces and markets television programs and live events featuring wrestling superstars. WCW produces eight hours of original programming seen each week throughout the United States and in over 25 countries throughout the world. Check out WCW's Web site at www.WCWwrestling.com.

Asmik Corp. is a leading Japanese developer, publisher and distributor of high-quality entertainment software for next-generation 32-bit videogame systems. The company, founded in 1985 and based in Tokyo, also distributes award-winning motion pictures, as well as home videos throughout Japan.

T-HQ develops, publishes and distributes interactive entertainment software for a variety of hardware platforms including Nintendo, Sony and Sega. Most of the company's products are based on licenses from popular sports, movies and arcade games. T-HQ has headquarters in Calabasas.

Contact: Rob Fleischer

Marketing@asciient.com
ASCII Entertainment Software, Inc.
900 Veterans Blvd., Suite 600
Redwood City, CA 94063
(415) 780-0800, (415) 780-0855
<http://www.asciient.com>

STRAP IN FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

0 to 1,234,800 mph in load time with the Mach 1 controller

Speed is of the essence. Moving from point A to point B has never been so simple. ASCII has given the gameworld yet another amazing controller to make flight, driving, and racing games mirror real life.

As you travel through the sound barrier you will be transported to another dimension where light and gameplay unite to provide a complete and total bliss for those in control. And in control you will be.

With the most comfortable ergonomic design of any steering wheel/flight controller out there, you won't be left in space. As you weave between cars and alien aircraft you will hardly find the time to thank us; but we understand. This solid, durable steering unit will sit perfectly on any table top, or for that special, one-of-a-kind, flight controller/steering wheel feel, that only ASCII can provide, you can rest the controller snugly between your legs. Angle the steering column up or down to suit your need for speed and then position the separate foot pedals within feet's reach and you are on your way to the finish line (in 1st, we hope).

Options, options, options_faster, faster, faster_concentrate, concentrate, concentrate. Oh, those voices in your head, wanting so much and always expecting to get it. The quickest way to satisfy these voices is getting your driving gloves on a Mach 1. With four adjustable button configurations, four different controller settings (analog, digital, pulse, and "analog joystick"), and an independent turbo fire feature (to borrow from "Back to the Future") where your going, there are no roads. Nothing to hold you back. And not only do all of these aid in agility and swiftness, but the unique forward and backward motion of the steering column certainly won't hurt. Now you can fly_. Yeager style!

But the fun doesn't stop there! Strap yourself in cause here comes the whiplash! No gravity is gonna pull you back. Fly high as you cruise coolly using the most advanced steering controller available. The 360 top-hat gives pin-point accuracy for last second lock-ons and directional control while the 2-axis analog control propels you forward at break-neck speed. A controller for all seasons (we'd recommend you get radials for winter driving) and all speeds, whether it's a Sunday drive you're after, or a Sunday driver that's after you, the getaway will be made easier with the Mach 1. So buckle up cause you are in for the ride of your life.

Just to get you up to speed, ASCII Entertainment Software is the American wholly owned subsidiary of ASCII Corporation of Japan. Concentrating on the software division of ASCII Corporation's diversified high technology and mass media industries, ASCII Entertainment has carved out a niche in the U.S. and the rest of the video gaming world both in video game controllers and software titles.

Coming February...

PlayStation Dominates The Ice In San Jose

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (Jan. 15) BUSINESS WIRE -Jan. 15, 1997--Wayne Gretzky. Mario Lemieux. Brett Hull. Patrick Roy. Some of the greatest names in hockey. What do they have in common? Not only are they all selectable players in NHL Face Off '97 for the PlayStation game console, but they also will all be playing in the Pinnacle/NHL FANTasy 47th Annual All-Star Game at the San Jose Arena on Saturday, January 18.

As part of the celebration surrounding the All-Star Game, Sony Computer Entertainment America, the people behind the PlayStation game console, will be taking part in the NHL FANTasy, which starts on Thursday, January 16 and runs through Sunday, January 19 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.

Sony Computer Entertainment America will have a booth with 8 interactive PlayStation kiosks running NHL Face Off '97. Each day there will be the opportunity for people to play NHL Face Off '97 against another person to win a number of prizes - from hats and t-shirts to hockey pucks. Some of hockey's brightest stars will also be making daily appearances at the PlayStation booth to sign autographs, pose for pictures, and even to play Face Off against the fans. Players include Sharks center Darren Turcotte, Phoenix Coyotes' left wing Kris King, and others.

As a reward to the hockey fans making the trip out to San Jose for the All-Star Game (as well as the local die-hard Sharks supporters), the NHL is hosting the NHL FANTasy during the days prior to the All-Star Game. FANTasy is a chance for hockey fans to learn more about the sport through hands-on trials, as well as check out the various NHL licensees. People will have the opportunity to practice their slapshot, meet some of the NHL's best players, and play NHL Face Off '97, the leading next generation hockey video game, in the arcade area of the event.

Realism is key to any sports video game and NHL Face Off '97 has every imaginable element: real stats and player attributes on all 650 NHL players; the home and away uniforms for all 26 teams, including the relocated Phoenix Coyotes; and each team's respective arenas recreated in amazing 3D detail. Beyond inclusion of all of these hockey mainstays, the game developers at Sony Interactive Studios America have added hockey elements such as drop passes, fake shots, the give-and-go, backwards skating, flips, fighting, celebrations and injuries. Athletes can also be traded freely between teams and have their stats edited. New players can even be created from scratch, allowing the player to add new team members as rosters change, or to put himself in the game.

Midway Games Ships Third Nintendo 64 Home Video Game

CHICAGO (Jan. 15) BUSINESS WIRE -January 15, 1997 Midway Now Offering Two N64 Sports Games Nintendo Projects Continued Strong Nintendo 64 Sales Midway Games Inc. (NYSE: MWY) announced today at Oppenheimer & Co.'s Visual Media Technology Conference that it shipped to retailers today its third Nintendo 64 (N64) video game software title, NBA Hang Time, for sale to consumers on January 17. NBA Hang Time and Midway's The NHLPAT & NHLr Present Wayne Gretzky's 3D HockeyT are the first sports games available for N64 and Midway is currently the only third-party licensee offering software titles for Nintendo 64.

Through the end of December, Nintendo has sold at least 1.7 million units of N64 hardware at retail in the U.S. Nintendo anticipates selling an additional 2.2 million Nintendo 64 systems by fiscal year end and projects retail sales of 6 million more N64 units worldwide by its 1997 fiscal year end.

Midway's first two Nintendo 64 video game software titles, Mortal Kombat Trilogy and The NHLPA & NHL Present Wayne Gretzky's 3D Hockey, enjoyed tremendous sales this holiday season selling over 500,000 units in aggregate. Midway believes the combination of a strong start for hardware sales and a limited library of software titles provides Midway with an opportunity to secure major market share.

NBA Hang Time is based on the popular arcade game, and features 2-on-2 full-court action and life-like players from all 29 NBA teams equipped with ultra-realistic movement capabilities. NBA Hang Time boasts over 900 secret "power-up codes", new hidden characters, the option to play on various courts and a sophisticated "Create-a-Player" option featuring up-to-date 1997 player rosters, including the latest NBA rookies. This option lets gamers custom-build their very own NBA Hang Time players with the physical appearance including height, weight, face and skills - such as speed, shooting, dunking, passing, and defensive ability - of their choice. NBA Hang Time also features play-by-play announcing and audio effects that simulate the sounds of an NBA arena during game time.

PlayStation Game Console Catches Super Bowl Sunday

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (Jan. 15) ENTERTAINMENT WIRE -Jan. 15, 1997--Over the course of the next two weeks, tens of thousands of football fans will converge upon the "Big Easy" for "Super Bowl Sunday," in search of entertainment and excitement...and Son Computer Entertainment America, Inc., the people behind the PlayStation(TM) game console, will be there to make sure that there's plenty of both for everyone.

Over the course of Super Bowl week, activities will include gameplay competitions on dozens of interactive PlayStation kiosks at the NFL Experience and Fox Field, as well as the long awaited Second Annual "Game Before the Game(TM)". The "Game Before the Game" is a unique event which pits a player from the Green Bay Packers against a player from the New England Patriots in a head-to-head interactive preview of Super Bowl XXXI on the huge Sony Mobiltron, the biggest screen on wheels.

Second Annual "Game Before the Game"

On Tuesday, January 21, Sony Computer Entertainment America will be hosting the Second Annual "Game Before the Game." A player from the Patriots will take on an opponent from the Packers in an early interactive glimpse of Super Bowl XXXI. The players will square off for a fierce game of NFL GameDay(TM) '97, the new hit football game for the PlayStation game console.

This year, the competition has grown to become an outdoor extravaganza, which will take place at the PlayStation Arena. The Arena is a re-creation of an actual football stadium, complete with bleachers and field, as well as the Sony Mobiltron, a 9'x12' video screen. Public events begin at 1 p.m., when the PlayStation Arena opens, allowing eager fans the opportunity to play NFL GameDay '97 on the Mobiltron or one of the several kiosks surrounding the arena. During the afternoon there will be a steady stream of giveaways and raffles, as well as an abundance of food and drinks at discount prices.

Then, at 6 p.m., players from the Patriots and the Packers will take center stage to challenge each other on the Mobiltron. The audience will have a clear view of their favorite player from the bleachers, while announcers provide commentary as the action unfolds.

NFL Experience

Sony Computer Entertainment America can also be found at the NFL Experience, which begins Thursday, January 23, and runs through Super Bowl Sunday. Sony Computer Entertainment America will be located in the arcade area, where there will be 10 PlayStation kiosks running NFL GameDay '97. The booth will have a competition stage for the public with prizes for all participants.

The Mobiltron will be set up inside the Experience, and there will be daily player appearances by some of the professional athletes visiting New Orleans for the week. Players will compete with fans, as well as pose for pictures and sign autographs. NFL Experience is located inside the New Orleans Convention Center.

Miller Lite/PlayStation NFL GameDay Challenge

Sony Computer Entertainment America can also be found in the Miller Lite/PlayStation NFL GameDay '97 Challenge tent at Fox Field, a huge outdoor area being set up in the French Quarter by Fox Networks. The GameDay Challenge will be inside a 30'x30' PlayStation tent at one end of the field, located on Decatur Street near Jax Brewery. Inside the tent will be eight PlayStation kiosks running NFL GameDay '97, with contests and giveaways happening throughout the day. The NFL GameDay Challenge runs from Thursday, January 23 through Saturday, January 25.

ADVISORY/Sega Sports Predicts the Green Bay Packers...

The team that won Super Bowl I & II is back for the first time in 29 years, leaving the "Big Easy" with the "Big" Super Bowl victory.

WHAT: Sega Sports has predicted the outcome of the National Football League's Super Bowl with "NFL '97" -- the all-new Sega Sports football video game for Sega Saturn. Building off the success of past predictions including the Nebraska Cornhuskers College Football National Championship, the San Francisco 49ers '95 Super Bowl win, the Dallas Cowboys '96 Super Bowl win, the Houston Rockets '95 NBA Championship clinch, the Chicago Bulls '96 NBA Championship win, the Stanley Cup-winning Colorado Avalanche, and the Atlanta Braves '95 World Series win, Sega Sports has once again let its sports video game do the talking.

HOW: Sega Sports video games are built with all the real teams and real players. Players aren't just represented with a jersey number and team name, but are rated and designed to play to their actual ability -- allowing Sega Sports to pit any two teams against each other for an accurate prediction. Once the two teams are chosen to play one another, Sega Saturn takes care of the rest -- providing a realistic, simulated prediction on its best-selling video game "NFL '97."

Sega Sports' Super Bowl Highlights
(Available on Satellite Feed)

First Half (14-6 Packers)

1st Qtr: Brett Favre hands off to Edgar Bennett for the 5 yard TD run
(Packers)

2nd Qtr: Reggie White sacks Bledsoe to end the half (Packers)

2nd Qtr: Drew Bledsoe connects with Terry Glenn for a 63 yard pass setting up a 24 yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri (Patriots)

Second Half (Final 28-13 Packers)

3rd Qtr: Eugene Robinson picks off a Bledsoe pass (Packers)

4th Qtr: 12 yard screen pass by Favre to Dorsey Levens for the TD (Packers)

4th Qtr: Bledsoe hands off to Curtis Martin for a 3 yard TD run (Patriots)

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. This week's column is going to be a short one. This is mostly because I've been burning the midnight oil all week, cruising around on the world wide web, seeing what there is to see.... and then there is the fact that there really isn't that much going on in the forums this week.

Speaking of the web, there is word that Oregon Research Associates is working on a web browser for the ST series and will be announced next month. It is a port of a program that they wrote for the Amiga... but it might be okay anyway. <grin> No sign of an attitude here, huh?

Before we start, I want to tell you that we'll have a few goodies coming your way in the coming weeks. We're planning a review of NVDI, the screen accelerator/GDOS replacement, and a continuation of the "Emulator Wars" series. Both of these projects are the work of our friend and neighbor Alejandro Aguilar. We may also have a head-to-head review of MagiC and Geneva off in the wings, but that won't be for a while yet. Head-to-head reviews are terribly hard to write. Not because you have to compare two programs, but because there always seems to be areas where both win, areas where neither win, and areas where winning doesn't matter. We want to be fair to everyone involved, but most of all we want to be fair to you, the reader.

Well, let's get on with the news, info, hints, and tips available here on

CompuServe.

From the Atari Computing Forums

In a continuing conversation about using QuickCIS, the automated CompuServe access program for the ST, Kevin Sheridan tells Jerry Coppess about his "clock-setting problem":

"The battery on my computer is still working however when I log in using quickcis it "corrects" the time based on something it finds on Compuserve and isn't doing it right. Oh well... Any hope for a new HMI graphic package for the Atari?"

Jerry tells Kevin:

"QCIS was designed to reset your clock from CIS's. This was a great feature until CIS changed it's log in. Now QCIS is reading the wrong info and resetting your clock with it. QCIS also needs work arounds for mail and the changing of file names from 6 to 8 characters plus the extension. It is a pain but still better than using a terminal program. HMI?? Do you mean HTML(HyperText Markup Language)? Like is used on the WWW ? If so yes. It is called CAB. There is also a demo for a potential commercial program called Webspace. It comes in 68000 and 68030 versions."

Kevin explains:

"HMI has something to do with the graphic interface the IBM and MAC use to communicate with Compuserve. I saw some talk of some of the Atari users getting together to write such a package but had to get some specs from compuserve in order to do it. It would give us a much better interface than QCIS or a terminal package and would really be an improvement on using internet mail. By the way I also use Flash. Does anyone out there have a good "do" file set up for uploading/downloading mail?"

Carl Barron tells Kevin:

"Sorry to report the atari hmi project is a dead horse. I was one of the group of users, active this project. it is dead."

Mark Gardiner asks for help:

"I upgraded my 1Mb 1040 STf to 4Mb and all works OK except the one game I'd keep my ST for all time for !! :.-(My copy of ANCO's Player Manager (Kick OFF2) no longer runs. It boots but when it comes to make a disk access it 2 bombs out. I got another copy from ANCO (unbelievably after all this time!) and the same happens. I get no probs with any other major apps...? I have tried the Make1Meg.TOS file and that doesn't work? Any ideas anyone?"

Simon Churchill tells Mark:

"You might like to try the 3meg ram drive trick. You make a reset proof ram disk (for games that need a warm boot to start from a boot sector loader) and run the game as normal. One of the best util's to do this with is RDE 5 which can make a ram disk and save it as a small file which can be placed in the auto folder of your boot disk. (For games that DON'T use the boot sector to load) It will load and reset the computer and allow the games AUTO folder to start as before, BUT 3meg's of memory have now been used. If your game uses a boot sector to load then you would need to set the ram drive then reset the computer after changing to the game disk. Naturally this is the harder setup to get to work properly."

Dennis Bishop Posts:

"I have a Seagate ST 3600N SCSI2F 540meg Drive, I have tried to add it to either my Falcon030 or my TT/030, but it will not work. On my Falcon I have a TOAD cable hooking up my syquest 44meg drive, The cable has two 50pin connectors, So I set the 44 to device 0 and the 3600 to device 1 but

HDX on the Falcon will not even see the 3600. so I opened up my TT, (4megs ST/4 megs TT RAM) and removed the ST157N drive, I set the 3600 to device 0, on the TT, HDX sees it as Device 2!, I was able to format the drive and partition it too, but the driver can not be installed and on reboot the machine will not see the drive and partitions at all. Has anyone used this drive? I've tried both with and without the resistor packs on it too. Got any idea as to how I can make this work?"

Albert Dayes asks Dennis:

"Does the drive hard partity enabled? If so try disabling it and see if that works."

Dennis replies:

"I've got the book with info on the drive and it just says if it's the end device to keep the restor packs in it, if it's going to be in the middle to remove them. I tried it both ways, even tried it set to device 0 and then device 1, on the TT it showed up as device 2, on the falcon with the syquest inline, it would not even see the drive at all. There are other jumpers, but I have no idea what they are for."

Albert asks Dennis:

"If you place the new 3600N drive on the bus by itself does that work? Assuming you leave the resistor paks in and set the device to #0.

You can ask in the (GO SEAGATE) forum for specifics on your drive also."

Mike Mortilla posts about his...

"[MIDI-LIFE CRISIS] FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 13, 1997

CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD MOVIES ON THE INTERNET
-An Historic Internet 'First'-

Just when you thought it was safe to turn on your computer...

On January 22, 1997 the Internet and the broadcast industry will come a little closer together. In an historic first, the American Film Institute (AFI) will broadcast Charlie Chaplin's THE RINK complete with Michael Mortilla's orchestral score, over the Internet! THE RINK is presented in cooperation with Film Preservation Associates, Kino On Video and Michael Mortilla.

Made possible with a new technology by VDonet Corp., "VDOLive" allows the real time transmission of Video and sound over the net without the need for the viewer having to download any files. Previously, music and video of just a few minutes could take hours to download and view. AFI will launch AFI OnLine Cinema on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. PST with the Internet premiere of the Charlie Chaplin classic THE RINK (1916). The Chaplin film will be presented through the month of January, after which AFI OnLine Cinema will begin featuring a continuing program of different classic Hollywood movies. The second feature, scheduled to run in February, is Buster Keaton's THE BOAT (1921). AFI OnLine Cinema will be located at www.afionline.org/cinema. To download the free software, contact: www.vdo.net.

During the 1996 Olympics, Mortilla's score for Chaplin's film "Easy Street" was performed as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. Under the direction of Richard Kaufman (UA/MGM) the Brevard Music Center Orchestra performed the work at Symphony Hall in Atlanta with Mortilla at the piano.

Contact MIDI-LIFE CRISIS: Beth Burleson at 805-569-3378 (voice/fax)
PO Box 1266,
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1266

<http://www.west.net/~mortilla> email: mortilla@west.net

The Big Kahuna himself, Chief Sysop Ron Luks, tells Mike:
"Congrats on being part of this Internet "first"!!"

Carmen Flak asks about a classic video game... the grand-daddy of 'em all,
Pong... or was in "Ping"?:
"What ever happened to that tennis ball game from way back in the dark
ages? Does it exist anywhere? Can we get it?"

Albert Dayes fills in the blanks for Carmen:
"Pong, by Atari (1972)"

Albert asks Larry:
"Where are the sound effects? <grin>"

Larry replies:
"Oops...
Blip..... Blip..... Blip....."

Well folks, I told you that this was going to be a short installment.
Be sure to tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready
to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

The Times.. They are a-changin'!!

In less enlightened times, the best way to impress women was to own a hot
car. But women wised up and realized it was better to buy their own hot
cars so they wouldn't have to ride around with jerks.

Technology has replaced hot cars as the new symbol of robust manhood. Men
know that unless they get a digital line to the Internet no woman is going
to look at them twice.

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